

**Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Abandoned Mine Lands Program
Wibaux County Mines
Reclamation Project 2014**

DEQ has identified 3 abandoned coal mines in Wibaux County that qualify for maintenance reclamation work through the Montana Department of Environmental Quality Abandoned Mine Lands program. These are the North Wibaux Mine, Black Diamond Mine, and the Peplinski Mine. Property owners have been contacted and have given consent for this work. Reclamation work has been performed by the DEQ-AML on each of these sites previously with the earliest work dating to 1984. Since the initial work, maintenance has been completed multiple times on each site.

The table below shows the work needed at each site:

Mine Name (Owner)	Problems
North Wibaux Mine (Travis Bakken, Dale Welliever)	Nine sinkholes
Peplinski Mine (Dan and David Peplinski)	Four sinkholes
Black Diamond Mine (Earl and Joann Smith)	Four sinkholes Fence repair Drainage ditch repair

The reclamation plan for the subsidence features includes filling with unclassified material, mounding to direct runoff away from closure, capping with topsoil; and broadcast seeding with a prairie grass seed mix. It is anticipated that the work at each site will take approximately one week.

The DEQ and its consultant (RESPEC Consulting & Services) will conduct a limited bid solicitation in August. Reclamation work is scheduled to take place in late September or early October to minimize impact on harvest.

For more information contact Dan Adams the site engineer with RESPEC at (406) 502-1880 or Bill Snoddy the DEQ Project Manager at (406) 841-5070.