



December 4, 2015

*Sent via electronic mail*

Ms. Dicki Peterson  
Westmoreland Savage Corp  
Savage Coal Mine  
P.O. Box 99  
138 Rosebud Lane  
Colstrip, MT 59323-0099

Permit ID: C1984002  
Revision Type: Bond Release  
Permitting Action: Deficiency  
Subject: First Round Acceptability Deficiency for Bond Release Application #SL3, Phase I and II

Dear Dicki:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has reviewed Bond Release Application #SL3. It is DEQ's conclusion that Application #SL3 includes areas that are not currently eligible for bond release. These deficiencies include the following:

- The 63 acre field labeled SL3-b is identified in the mine permit as having both grazing post-mine land use and a cropland land use. While the established vegetation community is healthy, the species composition is not trending towards the permitted land use of grazing land. Field SL3-b is dominated by alfalfa grass hay and was actively hayed in 2015. Please consult with DEQ vegetation specialist Mike Glenn and submit a revision to change the permitted post-mine land use.

In order to proceed with Application #SL3 in a timely manner, DEQ advises Westmoreland Savage Corp to address the above deficiencies. Upon receipt of your response, an inspection may be required prior to DEQ determining the bond release to be acceptable. Please feel free to contact me with questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Sjolund".

Melissa Sjolund, Technical Coordinator  
Coal and Uranium Program  
Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau  
Ph: 406.444.2885/Fax: 406.444.4988  
Email: Msjolund@mt.gov

C: Jeff Fleischman, OSM  
Lauren Mitchell, OSM  
FC: 620.011 (SL3)

## Gilbert, Sharona

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**From:** Gilbert, Sharona  
**Sent:** Friday, December 04, 2015 10:39 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Dicki  
**Cc:** jfleischman@osmre.gov; lmittchell2@osmre.gov; Gene Hay (ghay@osmre.gov); Bartlett, Franklin P (fbartlett@osmre.gov); Giovetti, Debbie (dgiovetti@osmre.gov); mcalles@osmre.gov; DEQCoal  
**Subject:** C1984002 SL3 Acceptability Deficiency  
**Attachments:** SL3\_Acceptability\_Deficiency\_12-04-15.pdf

Please see attached electronic correspondence. Have a great day!

### Sharona Gilbert

Administrative Assistant  
Coal & Uranium Program  
Industrial & Energy Minerals Bureau  
Ph: 444-4966  
Fax: 444-4988

*The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men,  
Gang aft agley ~Robert Burns*