



WESTERN ENERGY COMPANY

A Westmoreland Mining LLC Company
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August 6, 2015

Chris Yde
Program Supervisor
Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Permit ID: C1986003A
Revision Type: Bond Release
Permitting Action: Submittal
Subject: SL 14: Final

Dear Mr. Yde:

Western Energy Company (WEC) hereby submits Application SL 14 for “Final” bond release on 493 acres of reclamation within Area A of the Rosebud Mine (SMP C1986003A). Phase 3 release as “Pre-78 (Prelaw) Reclamation” was previously granted on 491 of these acres under Application 89 on 2/12/2009 and are described in Attachment 1. Exhibit 1 of the application further depicts the requested bond release acreage. The acreage includes pond 08D (4 acres) and reclaimed pond 009 (2 acres).

None of the acres within Application SL 14 were mined, used, disturbed or re-disturbed for coal mining after May 3, 1978. It was further determined that reclamation had been completed according to the approved reclamation plan and that a permanent, diverse vegetative cover, capable of supporting sustained livestock grazing, had been established in accordance with 50-1045, RCM and Phase 3 release was granted (Application 89). Since approval of Application 89, WEC has not re-disturbed any portion of the bond release area. Further, it has continued working to control noxious weeds and to prevent soil erosion in a manner similar to that exhibited prior to attaining phase 3 release. The acres in the application have continued to support livestock grazing pressure favorably comparable to adjacent native sites.

There are 21 undisturbed acres adjacent to the reclaimed portions, identified in Exhibit 1, which would become eligible for reduction of the permit boundary at such time as WEC next presents a permit boundary change. Total requested acres of final bond release is approximately 514 acres.

No monetary financial relief associated with this bond release application is requested at this time. WECO acknowledges that it would be required to submit an application for permit revision, along with an attendant performance bond, prior to conducting any activities regulated under MSUMRA that would re-affect or re-disturb lands granted "Final" bond release under this application.

Sincerely,



Dicki Peterson
Permit Coordinator
Western Energy Company
Rosebud Mine – Area A
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Attachments:

MTDEQ Bond Release Application SL14

- Attachment #1 – Bond Release Application Form
- Attachment #2 – Legal Description
- Attachment #3 – Landowner Notification Letter
- Attachment #4 – Public Notice
- Attachment #5 – Bond Reduction
- Exhibit 1