

Coal Section, Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Coal and Uranium Prospecting Application Instructions  
(Updated March 2026)

**Include all of the following in the application:**

1. Cover Letter
2. Prospecting Application Form (attached)
  - a. Fill in all blanks and provide a detailed answer for each question. Write “None” or “N/A” (particularly if not applicable due to being a short form) or “See Attachment” if that is the correct answer.
3. Prospecting Monthly/Annual Report Form spreadsheet (attached)
  - a. Fill out the information for Proposed Holes only (first tab)
  - b. Associated Action in Column G should be listed as “New Permit”.
  - c. Submittal date should match the date of the application.
4. Public Notice (example attached)
  - a. Public Notice must contain all required information pursuant to ARM 17.24.1001(q). Use attached example to ensure all required information is included.
5. Relevant maps:
  - a. Copies in **both** PDF and CAD

Email complete package to [DEQCoal@mt.gov](mailto:DEQCoal@mt.gov) if under 6MB.

If over 6MB, send package as a Zip File to [DEQCoal@mt.gov](mailto:DEQCoal@mt.gov) through the [State File Transfer Service](#).

**Public Notice instructions:**

Upon Completeness Determination, applicant will need to initiate the public notice as follows:

1. Short Form Public Notice
  - a. Pursuant to 82-4-226(8)(e), MCA, upon completeness determination, the applicant shall advertise the approved public notice of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the permit area **one time** with a **10-day comment period** after date of publication. Be sure to email [DEQCoal@mt.gov](mailto:DEQCoal@mt.gov) the publication information to as well as the affidavit from the newspaper when received per ARM 17.24.1001(q).
2. Long Form Public Notice
  - a. Pursuant to ARM 17.24.1112(a), upon completeness determination, the applicant shall advertise the approved public notice of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the permit area at least **once a week for four consecutive weeks** with a **30-day comment period** after last date of publication. Be sure to email [DEQCoal@mt.gov](mailto:DEQCoal@mt.gov) the publication information to

as well as the affidavit from the newspaper when received per ARM 17.24.1001(q).

**Bond instructions:**

Upon Acceptability Determination, applicant will need to submit bond according to the amount determined in the acceptability determination letter if applicable. For bond documents sent to DEQ:

1. Once signed by company representative and notarized, send a scanned copy to Ashley Eichhorn ([aeichhorn@mt.gov](mailto:aeichhorn@mt.gov)) for an initial review.
2. Send original bond document, preferably via FedEx or UPS for tracking, to DEQ Coal Section, 2401 Colonial Drive, Helena MT 59601.
3. Be sure to provide an updated Proof of Agency if information has changed with updates to Ownership and Control.