



138 Rosebud Ln.
Colstrip, MT 59323
406-748-5100
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May 1, 2025

Emily Lodman
Coal Section, Acting Coal Section Supervisor
Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Ave
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Permit ID: C1986003A
Revision Type: Minor Revision
Permitting Action: Submittal
Subject: SL 18; Bond Calculation

Dear Mrs. Lodman:

Westmoreland Rosebud Mining LLC (WRM) is requesting a Phase III Bond Release on approximately 442 acres within the Rosebud Mine – Area A (C1986003A) permit located near Colstrip, Montana. The request is specifically for liability release for Phase III reclamation and meets the requirement for a bond release application as defined within ARM 17.24.1116 (6)(c) of the rules. The present bond liability for Area A of the Rosebud Mine is \$32,130,000. The purpose of this bond release request is to document the progress of reclamation by WRM at the Rosebud Mine. Further information regarding this bond release can be found in the attached Bond Release Application dated April 28, 2025.

Should you require any additional information or documentation to facilitate your review, please do not hesitate to contact Noelle Boyer at (720) 440-6369 or NBoyer@westmoreland.com directly.

Sincerely,

Russ Batie, P.E.
Environmental Manager
Westmoreland Rosebud Mining LLC
Phone: (406) 748-5179
Fax: (406) 748-518
Email: RBatie@westmoreland.com

Gilbert, Sharona

From: Transfer Service
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 10:05 AM
To: DEQ AEMD Coal
Subject: State of Montana File Transfer Service

FILE TRANSFER SERVICE

STATE OF MONTANA

**The following file has been sent to you
through the State of Montana File Transfer Service:**

FILE NAME:	Surety Letter 18 Area A Cover Letter.pdf
SENT TO:	DEQCoal@mt.gov
SENT FROM:	Noelle Boyer (nboyer@westmoreland.com)

MESSAGE:

Please see the attached Surety Letter 18 bond calculation for Westmoreland Rosebud Mine Area A. Should you require any additional information or documentation to facilitate your review, please do not hesitate to contact Noelle Boyer at (720) 440-6369 or NBoyer@westmoreland.com directly. Have a good weekend, Noelle

**To download this file,
click on the link below:**

<http://transfer.mt.gov/transfer/ReceivedFileReport?TransferID=ad363a47-3e5d-4933-bcc0-bfbf5cd4feee>

Replies to this email are not monitored.

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From: Transfer Service
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2026 9:55 AM
To: DEQ AEMD Coal
Subject: State of Montana File Transfer Service

FILE TRANSFER SERVICE

STATE OF MONTANA

**The following file has been sent to you
through the State of Montana File Transfer Service:**

FILE NAME: Westmoreland Rosebud Mine Area A SL18.zip

SENT TO: DEQCoal@mt.gov

SENT FROM: Noelle Boyer (nboyer@westmoreland.com)

MESSAGE: Please see the attached first-round completeness deficiency response for Surety Letter SL18 in Area A. Let me know if you have any questions, Noelle

**To download this file,
click on the link below:**

<http://transfer.mt.gov/transfer/ReceivedFileReport?TransferID=2c0d5b32-2336-4c79-b076-458460dad41d>

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August 6, 2026

Emily Lodman
Coal Section, Coal Section Supervisor
Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Ave
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Permit ID: C1986003A
Revision Type: Bond Release
Permitting Action: Deficiency
Subject: SL18; First Round Completeness Deficiency

Dear Emily:

In response to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality first round completeness deficiency for SL18 Phase III bond release in Area A dated June 30, 2025, Westmoreland Rosebud Mining, (WRM) has the following response:

ARM 17.24.1116(1): There are multiple fields that were included in the application that have not received Phase II bond release due to concerns identified in the SL16 Acceptability letter. These include A06103, A06108, and A12401 (~10 acres). Please either update the bond release application to include these areas for Phase II to allow these fields to be phase III eligible or withdraw them from the application. Adding Phase II into the SL18 application would require an update to the public notice as well.

While WRM is confident that MTDEQ can review and approve these acres as if they meet the standards for Phase III, they most certainly meet the standards for Phase II. WRM has added these acres to the application materials. Please find them added to the application and drawings in this response.

There are several fields that appear to be eligible for Phase III release where the old dragline corridor crossed the Area E permit that are now included in the Area A permit that were not included in the application. Please evaluate these fields to determine if they should have been included in this application. The permit acres may need to be adjusted if these acres are included.

Cedar Creek has only evaluated these fields for one year; the second evaluation will happen during the growing season of 2026. These have not been added to the application.

The current submission includes approximately 442 acres, but portions of the application reference 422 acres and the Revegetation report cites 464 acres. Please evaluate total acreage submitted, and update the entire application for consistency, including the public notice, bond form, etc.

WRM has mis-typed the acreage in a couple portions of the application, the correct acreage is 442 acres. The revegetation report includes some areas that have been previously released

other Phase III applications. Please note that the acreage in the application submitted by WRM is the correct acreage for this application.

ARM 17.24.1116(6)(c)(i): The Phase III vegetation report indicates that Cropland areas are being applied for bond release, though no sampling locations are provided for the 154 cropland acres in the application. ARM 17.24.726(3) requires sampling efforts for cropland to be conducted. Additionally, there is no demonstration that cropland areas meet the requirements of ARM 17.24.764. Please provide the required information necessary to demonstrate that the 154 acres of cropland have met requirements cited above to achieve Phase III bond release.

WRM received the harvest numbers from Mr. Valdez on December 15, 2025, the previous 3 years of harvest. The following numbers as reported are 348 bales in 2023, 408 bales in 2024 and 379 bales in 2025. Mr Valdez estimates his bales at 1500 lbs. These numbers are well above the productivity found in the following documents:

**Cedar Creek has a reported productivity of non-irrigated 0.30 tons/acre.*

<https://revenuefiles.mt.gov/files/Resources/Government/Agricultural-Land-Valuation-Advisory-Committee/Reports-and-Supplemental-Documents/2022-Agricultural-Land-Advisory-Committee-Handout.pdf>

pg 29 Non-Irrigated Hay land – Productivity (tons of vegetation) 0.71 tons/acres

https://www.sare.org/wp-content/uploads/SW03_063.pdf

Western SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education) estimates dryland yields at 1.04 tons across the state of Montana, noting that yields in the eastern part of the state can fluctuate dramatically. Typically, in Rosebud County, Montana, dryland alfalfa harvest yields typically average between 1.0 to 1.5 tons per acre, depending strictly on localized seasonal moisture and precipitation.

ARM 17.24.1116(6)(c)(ii): Please include post-mine drainage centerlines in all CAD files and PDF maps. This detail is important to inspectors assessing the stability of the landscape in accordance with 17.24.1116(6)(c)(ii).

The post-mine drainage centerlines have been added to all maps.

ARM 17.24.1116(6)(c)(iv): Pond PO-010 was approved as a permanent pond under the Area E permit, but that documentation has not yet been transferred to the Area A permit. Pond 10 is now a pond within the Area A permit. Clean up the Area A permit documents (17.24.504, 17.24.639, 17.24.642) to acknowledge the addition of PO-010 as a permanent pond approved under the Area E permit and transferred to the Area A permit will be required for this field to be eligible in this application. Please provide a permit revision to update these permit documents for this pond to be eligible or withdraw this field from the current application.

Per discussion with DEQ on May 14, 2026, all documentation transfers for Pond PO-010 from the Area E permit to the Area A permit will be completed as part of the mid-permit review and submitted under a revision outside of this bond release application.



Should you require any additional information or documentation to facilitate your review, please do not hesitate to contact Noelle Boyer at (720) 440-6369 or NBoyer@westmoreland.com directly.

Sincerely,

Wade Steere PE
Environmental Permitting Manager
Westmoreland Rosebud Mining LLC
P.O. Box 99, 114 Rosebud Lane
Direct: 406-748-5110 | Cell: 406-839-8189 | Fax: 406-748-5202
Employee Email: wsteere@westmoreland.com | Website: www.westmoreland.com