



WESTMORELAND SAVAGE MINING LLC

A Subsidiary of WESTMORELAND MINING LLC

P.O. Box 30 · Savage, MT 59262 · Phone (406) 798-3651

June 3, 2026

Emily Lodman
Department of Environmental Quality
Mining Bureau, Coal Section
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601

Permit ID: C1984002
Revision Type: Minor Revision
Permitting Action: Application Submittal
Subject: SL7: Phase 2 Bond Release

Dear Emily:

Westmoreland Savage hereby submits bond release application SL7 for partial release of approximately 209 acres of Phase II bond release within the Savage Mine.

WSM is requesting a \$250,000 bond refund in this application. The associated materials are included with this submittal.

If you have any questions, please contact Noelle Boyer at (720) 440-6369 or NBoyer@westmoreland.com directly.

Sincerely,

Jesse Noel, P.E.
Senior Environmental Manager
1438 Absaloka Mine Road | Hardin, MT 59034
Direct: (406) 226-2255 | Mobile: (406) 740-0242
Email: jnoel@westmoreland.com | Website: www.westmoreland.com

Gilbert, Sharona

From: Transfer Service
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 1:54 PM
To: DEQ AEMD Coal
Subject: State of Montana File Transfer Service

Categories: Orange Category

FILE TRANSFER SERVICE

STATE OF MONTANA

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

FILE NAME:	SL7 Westmoreland Savage Mine Phase 2 Bond Release Application Signed.pdf
SENT TO:	DEQCoal@mt.gov
SENT FROM:	Noelle Boyer (nboyer@westmoreland.com)
MESSAGE:	Please see the attached SL7 Westmoreland Savage Mine Phase 2 Bond Release Application

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

<http://transfer.mt.gov/transfer/ReceivedFileReport?TransferID=253c4a88-e944-46d1-ac81-04d39518e83d>

Replies to this email are not monitored.

Coal Section, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Bond Release Form

(Updated March 2026)

This application form is for bond release pertaining to Phases I, II, III, IV and/or Undisturbed acres.

Per Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.24.1111(2), applications must be filed at times or seasons that allow the department to evaluate properly the reclamation operations alleged to have been completed.

SECTION A – APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Site Name: [Savage Mine](#)
Permit Number: [C1984002](#)
Date Permit Approved: [December 10, 1984](#)

2. Name of Applicant: [Westmoreland Savage Mining, LLC](#)
Address: [PO Box 30](#)
City: [Savage](#) State: [MT](#) Zip Code: [59262](#)
Office Phone: [406-478-5869](#) Fax: [406-478-5967](#)

SECTION B – BOND RELEASE INFORMATION

1.

Name of Bonding Agent	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Bond No(s)
Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America	One Tower Square	Hartford	CT	06183	106649107

2. Current bond amount held by DEQ: [\\$6,890,000.00](#)

3. Total amount of bond requested for release: [\\$250,000.00](#)

4. The type and appropriate dates of reclamation work performed; [Completed reclamation work includes backfilling and grading spoil material according to approved post-mine topography. Reclamation work was completed between 2012 and 2022 within the SL7 bond release area. At least two growing seasons have elapsed since the first seeding dates for the requested fields. Seed mixes and supplemental plantings were in accordance with the approved permit. The seeding history for](#)

the Phase II bond release area is documented in the Annual Mining Reports. Table 1 shows the application fields by their acreages and year. The appropriate seed was planted either by drilling or broadcasting. Monitoring of reclaimed areas was conducted annually.

5. A description of the results achieved as they relate to the permittee's approved reclamation plan; Reclamation work was completed in accordance with the backfilling and grading requirements of the approved mine reclamation plan, including Sections 17.24.313 and 17.24.315. Post-mine topography was achieved using mobile equipment and monitored to ensure approved suitability, shape, and stability of regraded spoils. At least two growing seasons have elapsed since the first seeding dates for the requested fields. Seed mixes and supplemental plantings were in accordance with the approved permit. The appropriate seed was planted either by drilling or broadcasting Section 17.24.716.
6. Legal Description of Bond Release Area: T20N, R57E : E1/2 Section 21, N1/2 SW1/4 Section 22, SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 23, W1/2 SW1/4 & SW1/4 NW1/4 Section 27, E1/2 SW1/4 & SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 28.

7. Bond Release Phases

Phase	Acre *no decimals	Dollar Amount Requested
Phase I: (Defined in ARM 17.24.1116(6)(a))	0	\$0.00
Phase II: (Defined in ARM 17.24.1116(6)(b))	209	\$250,000.00
Phase III: (Defined in ARM 17.24.1116(6)(c))	0	\$0.00
Phase IV: (Defined in ARM 17.24.1116(6)(d))	0	\$0.00
Undisturbed Acres	0	\$0.00

8. Breakdown of Final Bond Release Acres

(Only applies to Phase IV, Undisturbed, or Pre-1989 Phase III)

	Permit Acreage Mineral	Permit Acreage Surface
Federal:	0	0
Tribal:	0	0
State:	0	0
Private:	0	0
County:	0	0
Total:	0	0

9. In addition, as part of any bond application, the permittee shall submit copies of letters that the permittee has sent to adjoining property owners, local governmental bodies, planning agencies, and sewage and water treatment authorities or water companies in the locality of the operation, notifying them of the permittee's intention to seek release from the bond. Please indicate the letters included in the application:

- a. ☒ Adjoining landowners (this should include all landowners for the entire permitted area as well as any landowner adjacent to the permit boundary per 82-4-232(6)(a), MCA)
- b. ☒ Local governmental bodies

- c. ☒ Planning agencies
i. ☐ Check here if N/A
ii. ☒ Check here if covered under local governmental bodies
- d. ☒ Sewage and water treatment authorities or water companies in locality of operation
i. ☒ Check here if N/A
ii. ☐ Check here if covered under local governmental bodies
- e. Include addresses in letters or a table/list of addresses as applicable. Use the example spreadsheet or incorporate a similar format within the application.

SECTION C – CERTIFICATION *MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH DESIGNATION OF PERMIT COORDINATOR

Pursuant to ARM 17.24.1111(4), I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the materials and information contained in this application are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature:  JESSE NOEL

Title: SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER

Date: 6-3-26

Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State of Montana this day of June 3rd, 2026.

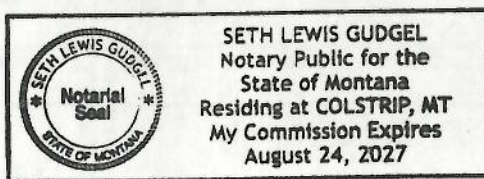


Notary Public for the State of: _____

Residing at: _____

My Commission expires: _____

(SEAL)



INTRODUCTION

Westmoreland Savage Mining LLC (Westmoreland), owns and operates the Savage Mine, located in Richland County, Montana, under Surface Mining Permit No. C1984002 (renewed 12/10/2022) issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The Savage Mine is located northwest of Savage, Montana.

This document is a request by Westmoreland for Phase II Partial Release on approximately 209 acres of the Savage Mine near Savage, Montana. The request is specifically for a monetary release of \$250,000 and liability release of approximately 209 acres of reclaimed land in the permit area. Present bond liability for the Savage Mine is \$6,890,000. The purpose of this bond release request is to document the progress of reclamation by Westmoreland at the Savage Mine.

This application was prepared in compliance with the Montana Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act and the Permanent Regulatory Program pursuant to the Act. The submittal specifically addresses the portions of ARM 17.24.1111 through 17.24.1116, which apply to bond release applications.

Reclamation Phase II [ARM 17.24.1116(6)(b)] shall be deemed to have been completed when: soil replacement and spoil and soil tillage have been completed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan; at least two growing seasons have elapsed since seeding or planting of the affected area; soils are protected from accelerated erosion by the established vegetation; and noxious weeds are controlled. It is Westmoreland's belief that the requirements of the approved reclamation plan have been met.

An exhibit showing the requested area, approximately 209 acres, is included in this bond release application (Exhibit 1). The reclamation work described was completed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan described in C1984002.

Bond Release Legal Description and Landowner Information								
Legal Description			Surface Owner Information				Mineral Owner Information	
Township/Range	Section(s)	Area	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Note if Mineral Ownership is State, Federal, or Tribal
T20N, R57E	21	All	Robert Lange Inc.	33649 County Road 109	Savage	MT	59262	Private
T20N, R57E	22 23 26 28	S1/2 SW1/4 NW1/4 All	Westmoreland Savage Min ing LLC	10375 Park Meadows Dr., Suite 400	Lone Tree	CO	80124	Private
T20N, R57E	27	All	Etzel Family, LLC	PO Box 102	Savage	MT	59262	Private
Legal Description			Adjoining Landowner Information					
Township/Range	Section(s)	Area	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	
T20N, R57E	28	Portions of All	Ronald Etzel et al	PO Box 102	Savage	MT	59262	
T20N, R57E	22	Portions of All	Montana Dakota Utilities	PO Box 5603	Bismark	ND	58506	
T20N, R57E	15	All	Jonald Jorgensen	11375 County Road 345	Savage	MT	59262	
T20N, R57E	16 17 20 28 29	E1/2, SW1/4 E1/2 All	Lange Farms LLC	33649 County Road 109	Savage	MT	59262	
T20N, R57E	22 23 34	E1/2 All Portions of N1/2 and W1/2	Matt & David J Ler	10725 County Road 340	Savage	MT	59262	
T20N, R57E	26	Portions of All	David & Lanette Jorgensen Family Trust	10986 County Road 342	Savage	MT	59262	
T20N, R57E	33	All	Heart Plus LLC	PO Box 216	Lambert	MT	59243	
Notification List								
Local Governmental Bodies								
Type			Name	Address	City	State	Zip	
County Commission			Richland County Commissioners	201 West Main Street	Sidney	MT	59270	
County Planner			Richland County Planning Board	2177 Lincoln Ave SE	Sidney	MT	59270	
Sewage District			Richland County Environmental Health	1201 West Holly, Suite 1	Sidney	MT	59270	
Public Notice								
Type			Name	Address	City	State	Zip	
Newspaper			The Roundup	PO Box 1207	Sidney	MT	59270	

Tables

Table 1. Phase II Bond Release Field Data

<u>Field</u>	<u>Soil Depth (Inches)*</u>			<u>Last Seeding Date</u>
	<u>Top</u>	<u>Sub</u>	<u>Total</u>	
S12201	10.0	13.0	23.0	4/5/2012
S12202	6.0	19.0	25.0	6/8/2012
S12203	NR		N/A	7/4/2012
S12401	8.5	15.0	23.5	12/5/2012
S12402	10.5	8.5	19.0	12/5/2012
S12403	7.5	12.5	20.0	12/5/2012
S12404	7.0	19.0	26.0	12/4/2012
S12405	6.0	18.0	24.0	12/4/2012
S13401	7.0	17.5	24.5	10/15/2013
S13402	7.0	17.0	24.0	10/15/2013
S14201	6.0	19.0	25.0	5/10/2014
S14402	5.0	18.0	23.0	11/3/2014
S14403	14.5	11.0	25.5	11/3/2014
S15101	7.0	17.5	24.5	3/16/2015
S15102	10.0	12.0	22.0	3/16/2015
S15401	10.0	12.0	22.0	10/20/2015
S15402	10.0	12.0	22.0	10/20/2015
S16201	6.5	18.0	24.5	4/11/2016
S16401	10.0	12.0	22.0	10/1/2016
S17202	7.5	17.0	24.5	4/2/2017
S17203	7.0	17.0	24.0	4/3/2017
S17204	6.0	18.5	24.5	4/4/2017
S17205	6.0	19.0	25.0	4/5/2017
S17206	6.5	16.5	23.0	4/5/2017
S17301	7.5	16.5	24.0	9/5/2017
S17302	5.0	18.0	23.0	9/6/2017
S17401	7.0	17.0	24.0	10/1/2017
S19201	6.0	17.0	23.0	4/12/2019
S19202	6.0	20.0	26.0	4/12/2019
S19203	7.5	18.0	25.5	4/12/2019
S19204	7.0	17.5	24.5	4/12/2019
S19205	7.0	17.0	24.0	4/10/2019
S20201	6.0	18.5	24.5	4/22/2020
S20202	7.0	18.0	25.0	4/22/2020
S21301	6.0	12.5	18.5	9/21/2021
S21302	6.5	17.5	24.0	9/21/2021
S22301	6.0	11.0	17.0	9/28/2022
S22302	7.0	14.0	21.0	9/28/2022
S22303	5.0	10.0	15.0	9/28/2022
S22401	6.0	18.0	24.0	10/19/2022
S22402	7.0	17.0	24.0	10/19/2022
S25406	6.0	18.0	24.0	4/10/2019

Bond Release Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that Westmoreland Savage Mining, LLC, with its offices located at: PO Box 30, Savage, Montana 59262 has filed an application with the Coal Section, Mining Bureau of the Department of Environmental Quality for bond release SL7 of Savage Mine, Permit C1984002, which was originally permitted December 10, 1984, and last renewed on December 10, 2022.

The proposed bond release area containing 209 acres is located in Richland County Montana, approximately 5 miles west of Savage, Montana. The general legal description of the SL7 Bond Release Area is as follows:

T20N, R57E : Section 21, 22, 23, 27 and 28.

The total bond amount for Savage Mine is \$6,890,000 and a monetary reduction of \$250,000 is being sought.

Completed reclamation work includes backfilling, grading of spoil material, soiling and seeding according to approved post-mine topography and post mine land use. Grading and soiling work was completed between 2012 and 2022 within the SL7 bond release area. Monitoring of reclaimed areas was conducted annually.

An electronic copy of the application is available for inspection on the Montana Department of Environmental Quality Coal Section's website or can be requested by emailing DEQCoal@mt.gov.

Written comments, objections and/or requests for informal conference on this application may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, Coal Section, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901 or by emailing DEQCoal@mt.gov within 30 days of the final publication of this notice.

Bond Release Landowner & Local Governmental Organization Notification Letter

Dear Landowner,

Westmoreland Savage Mining, LLC, has applied for partial bond release to the Department of Environmental Quality under Bond Release SL7. This request is for completion of reclamation as approved in Savage Mine Permit C1984002. Completed reclamation work includes backfilling, regrading, soiling and seeding to approved post-mine topography and land use as detailed under ARM 17.24.1116 (7)(a)-(d) Reclamation Phase 2 of Montana's Permanent Program, Strip and Underground Reclamation Rules and Regulations.

The SL7 application is for release of approximately 209 acres of Phase 2 reclamation liability bond. Current bond is \$6,890,000 with a monetary reduction of \$250,000 being requested. The total reclamation bond remaining in effect is \$6,640,000.

The lands are located within portions of the following legal descriptions:

T20N, R57E: Section 21, 22, 23, 27 and 28.

An electronic copy of the application is available for inspection on the Montana Department of Environmental Quality Coal Section's website or can be requested by emailing DEQCoal@mt.gov.

Written comments, objections and/or requests for informal conference on this application may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, Coal Section, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901 or by emailing DEQCoal@mt.gov within 30 days of receipt of this notice.

This letter is being sent to fulfill the requirements of ARM 17.24.1111(3) of Montana's Permanent Program, Strip and Underground Reclamation Rules and Regulations.

Sincerely,

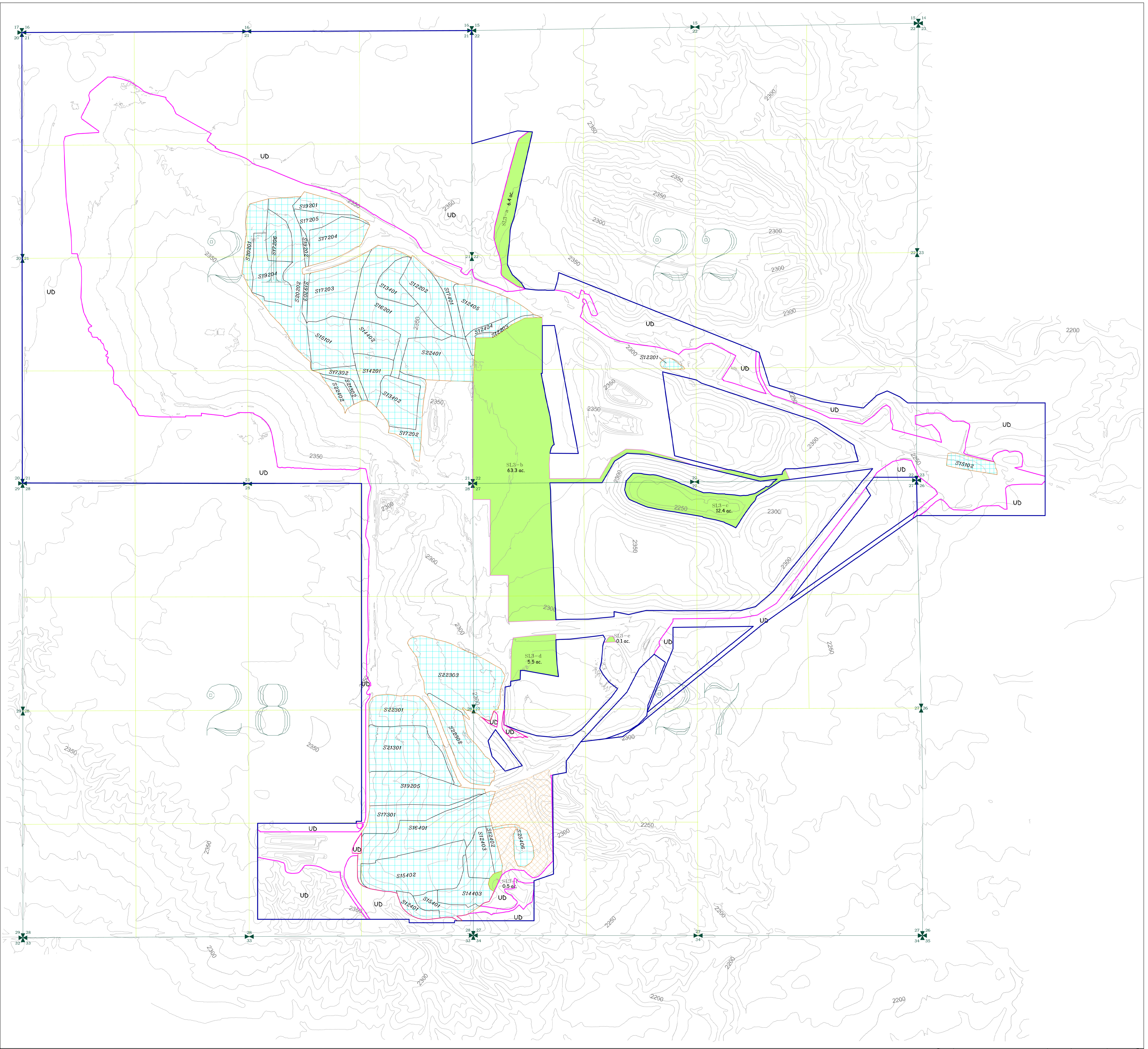
Jesse Noel, P.E.

Senior Environmental Manager

1438 Absaloka Mine Road | Hardin, MT 59034

Direct: (406) 226-2255 | Mobile: (406) 740-0242

Email: jnoel@westmoreland.com | Website: www.westmoreland.com



Permit Boundary
Disturbance Boundary
Existing Index Contour
Existing Intermediate Contour
Quarter section line

Section Corner
Sections 21, 22, 27, & 28
T. 20 N., R. 57 E.

LEGEND

- 2026 SL7 Phase 2 Bond Release 209.1 acres
2015 SL3 Phase 2 Bond Release 89.8 acres
2015 SL4 Pre75 Final Bond Release 139.5 acres

Scale in Feet
400 0 400 800

SCALE: 1" = 400'
Contour Interval 10'

REVISIONS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	CAD DESIGNER	CHECKER

Westmoreland Savage Mining LLC
A Subsidiary of WESTMORELAND MINING LLC
P.O. 30 Savage, MT 59262 (406)798-3651

Savage Mine
Phase 2 Bond Release SL7

GRAPHICS DESIGNER: JR	DATE COMPLETED: 2026-04
DESIGNED BY: JR	Base: 2026-03 Topo
SCALE: 1" = 400'	Date Approved: -
CAD DRAWING: Application SL7 2026-4.dwg	

