



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

P. O. Box 200901

Helena, MT 59620-0901

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JUN 06 2014

Steve Bullock, Governor

Tracy Stone-Manning, Director

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL

POLICY OFFICE

www.deq.mt.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-14-18

June 9, 2014

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: Western Energy Company
PO Box 99
Colstrip, MT 59323

FACILITY NAME: Rosebud Mine

FACILITY LOCATION: Castle Rock Road
Colstrip, MT 59323

RECEIVING WATER: East Fork Armells Creek, Stocker Creek, Lee Coulee,
West Fork Armells Creek, Black Hank Creek, Donley
Creek, Cow Creek, Spring Creek, and Pony Creek

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0023965

This is a major modification of the MPDES permit for the Western Energy Company Rosebud Mine. The facility discharges to East Fork Armells Creek, Stocker Creek, Lee Coulee, West Fork Armells Creek, Black Hank Creek, Donley Creek, Cow Creek, Spring Creek, and Pony Creek. The modification includes the following actions: correct the identification of certain "new" source outfalls that were previously permitted and are "existing" sources; transfer fifteen outfalls to Western Alkaline Standards; revise water quality-based effluent limitations; revise effluent monitoring requirements; and remove three representative monitoring outfalls.

As specified in the Administrative Rules of Montana at ARM 17.30.1361 and ARM 17.30.1365(4)(b) only the permit conditions described above are reopened and subject to this public notice and comment period. All other provisions of the permit remain in effect and are not reopened.

On September 21, 2000, a U.S. District Judge issued an order stating that until all necessary total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, are established for a particular water quality limited segment, the State is not to issue any new permits or increase permitted discharges under the MPDES program. The order was issued in the lawsuit Friends of the Wild Swan v. U.S. EPA, et al., CV 97-35-M-DWM, District of Montana, Missoula Division. The Department of Environmental Quality finds that the issuance of this proposed permit does not conflict with the order because it is not a new permit and the permit includes effluent limits that prohibit any increases above previously-allowed authorized amounts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS July 10, 2014. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS June 10, 2014 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail David Dunbar or Barb Sharpe at WPBPublicNotices@mt.gov.

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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