



News Release

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ROVA Plant Operates Three Years with No Lost Time Accidents and Receives Special Safety Honors

Colorado Springs, CO – October 24, 2010 -- Westmoreland Coal Company (NYSE AMEX: WLB) announced today that its Roanoke Valley Energy Facility (“ROVA”) has achieved two major safety milestones and has received special honors for its safety program.

On October 21, 2010, ROVA reached a three-year milestone with no lost-time accidents. The ROVA facility has also operated over two years without a recordable injury. The facility employs 58 full time workers.

The Company also announced that NAES Corporation, the contract operator of the two-unit power plant, recently awarded ROVA its top honors for safety performance for 2009, distinguishing ROVA as the best among the 98 power plants operated by NAES.

ROVA also continues its certification under the Carolina Star Program, a cooperative effort among industry management, employees and Occupational, Safety and Health North Carolina, a state sponsored version of the Federal OSHA program. Only 89 out of a total of approximately 240,000 businesses in North Carolina have earned the Carolina Star status, and ROVA is the only power plant to have earned this recognition. ROVA received its initial certification in 2003 and completed the most recent three-year recertification in December 2009. The facility proudly displays a special Carolina Star flag at the plant entrance.

Keith E. Alessi, President and CEO of Westmoreland Coal Company commented: “I congratulate ROVA on achieving such exceptional safety performance, and I thank all of the employees at ROVA and NAES for their diligence and hard work to create and maintain a safe work environment. We also appreciate the Carolina Star program and its initiatives to promote effective safety programs and training. The special awards and recognition received from NAES and the Carolina Star Program are held in the highest regard, and serve as daily reminders of the critical importance of safety.”

Westmoreland Coal Company is the oldest independent coal company in the United States. The Company’s coal operations include coal mining in the Powder River Basin in Montana and lignite mining operations in Montana, North Dakota and Texas. Its power operations include ownership of the two-unit ROVA coal-fired power plant in North Carolina. For more information, visit www.westmoreland.com.

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