



news release

Westmoreland Coal Company
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Westmoreland Announces Substantial Coal Acquisition

Englewood, CO – December 6, 2011 -- Westmoreland Coal Company (NasdaqGM:WLB) today announced that it has leased over 8,800 acres of private coal, representing an estimated 158 million tons of Rosebud McKay coal resources adjacent to its Absaloka Mine in Hardin, Montana. Westmoreland controlled an estimated 389.9 million tons of proven and probable coal reserves across all of its operations as of December 31, 2010.

“This is a significant acquisition for Westmoreland Coal Company, more than tripling the available coal resource at our Absaloka mine” said Keith E. Alessi, President and Chief Executive Officer. “This lease solidifies our position as a key operator in the Northern Powder River Basin, extends the mine life at Absaloka, allows for increased production as demand warrants and enables greater mine optimization.”

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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