

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR MINOR REVISION
COAL AND URANIUM PROGRAM
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal Company

DATE: 4/22/09

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine Permit # MR09-12-09

Type and Purpose of Action: Spring Creek Coal proposes removing eight currently active monitoring wells and one water supply well that lie in the path of mining. Mining is expected to occur in the areas occupied by these wells by June, 2009.

Well ID	Aquifer Completion	Location	Abandonment Required
79-100-WOBO	Overburden	Pit 2	No
79-100-WAP	Alluvium	Pit 2	No
79-100-WCP	Anderson-Dietz	Pit 2	No
79-100-WIBO	Interburden	Pit 2	Yes
79-103-WAO	Alluvium	Pit 2	No
AD-11	Anderson-Dietz	Pit 4	No
CN-4	Canyon	Pit 2	Yes
OB-5	Overburden	Pit 4	No
506WW	Multiple	Pit 4	Yes

Monitoring wells to be abandoned

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures: No impacts would be anticipated. Monitoring wells completed in the same aquifer as those to be removed (with the exception of the Canyon coal) lie up and down gradient of the wells to be removed and would provide adequate coverage to monitor changes in water level and water quality. The deeper and unmined Canyon coal has been drastically affected by coal bed methane. Wells completed in this aquifer commonly yield spurious water levels and commonly blow gas; therefore, no more Canyon wells will be installed at the mine. All wells completed below the coal seam to be mined, known as the Anderson-Dietz coal, will be abandoned using bentonite. The deep water supply well (506WW) will be abandoned using full column cement below the bottom of the Anderson-Dietz coal. The water supply well is rarely used and no longer supplies substantial water to the mine operation.