

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

COMPANY NAME: Rio Tinto - Spring Creek Mine

DATE: 6/11/09

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

MR#: 09-12-13

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine Decker, MT

Type and Purpose of Action: Minor Revision 09-12-13 was submitted for the purpose of creating additional area as a soil stockpile footprint in order to store additional topsoil for future reclamation.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures: The impact of this action is not expected to cause any harm as the footprint area designated currently is used for soil stockpiling. The additional area requested falls between two current stockpiles and a portion of the site being used was formerly a stockpile.

Alternative Actions: Alternative actions would include disturbing a native area for a new stockpile footprint, using a different stockpile area, or direct haul of the topsoil resource to active reclamation.