

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

COMPANY NAME: Signal Peak Energy, LLC.

DATE: June 18, 2009

OPERATING PERMIT#: 93017

MR#: 09-17-14

LOCATION: Bull Mountain Mine, Musselshell County

Type and Purpose of Action:

This minor revision seeks approval for building temporary roads to provide access for the construction of a conveyor belt. The conveyor belt, when constructed, will move waste coal material to a disposal location. The road is needed to provide access for heavy construction equipment such as concrete trucks, cranes and scrappers that are needed to install the conveyor. The length of the road is less than a mile and the area of disturbance is estimated at approximately 2 acres.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The roads will be located within the boundaries of an active mine operation. Potential impacts from the project include increased localized erosion and sediment runoff. Runoff from the basins affected by this construction will be captured by existing sediment ponds. Standard practices for erosion control of road construction practices will be in place. Dust control measures (water truck) will be in place.

Alternative Actions:

Alternative actions might include using larger cranes, derricks or helicopters to place the equipment. Larger cranes or derricks would entail considerable disturbance and additional expense with little net reduction in impact. The use of helicopters would involve significant risk to people and unjustified expense. The construction of temporary roads appears to be the best course of action.