

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

COMPANY NAME: Rio Tinto - Spring Creek Mine

DATE: 6/23/2009

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

MR#: 08-12-12

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine Decker, MT

Type and Purpose of Action: Minor Revision 08-12-12 was submitted after related discussions with DEQ to pre-approve improved general design methods for reclamation of small tributaries to improve the quality of reclamation.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures: Approval of this reclamation design approach is expected to result in improved reclamation with more natural geomorphic features. No additional impacts are expected with this drainage reclamation approach over previous measures. Development of small natural meandering channel features within constructed floodplains will require localized erosion and deposition, which is typical in reclamation. If needed, the operator intends to capture and redistribute any residual soil deposits collected below reclaimed drainage reaches, but these are expected to be minor.

Alternative Actions: Alternatives to the approved actions would be similar to the operator's previous more piecemeal drainage design submittals and some outdated methods, or other design and reclamation approaches. Some other geomorphic design methods would also be acceptable.