

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal Company

DATE: June 30, 2009

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

MR#: 09-12-12

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine - Big Horn County, Montana

Type and Purpose of Action: Spring Creek Coal Company proposes to add language to SMP 79012 which would allow the company to construct, relocate, and remove electrical facilities within the mine permit area without first submitting and receiving approval for a minor revision. All of the construction activities would be within the permit boundary and would not create any new disturbance to existing reclamation. All power line and substation construction would be in accordance with 17.24.751(2)(a). Construction and removal activities would be limited to that necessary to complete the work and would be completed during dry or frozen conditions. Substations would be placed in locations with minimal potential for erosion resulting from surface runoff. Soil would be salvaged where necessary and erosion control would be provided.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures: No additional environmental impacts would be realized if the proposed minor revision is approved. The main impact resulting from the proposal would be the reduction in paperwork for both the operator and the Department.

Alternative Actions: The only alternative that was considered was to maintain the status quo and require the operator to submit a minor revision request for each new power line or substation construction, relocation, or removal.