

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal

DATE: July 10, 2009

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

MR#: 09-12-15

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

The proponent proposes to move two air samplers (C and D) due to pit advancement in Pit #2 and Pit #4 respectively. The two samplers would be upgraded to operate off of battery backs charged from solar panels. This would eliminate the need to provide overhead electrical lines to each site. The proponent has received permission from MDEQ Air Quality Program to relocate the sites.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The location for air sampler C would be along the existing CBM pipeline corridor; therefore, access would be along an existing two-track trail and there would be no new disturbance. Travel along the exiting two-track will have minimal impact to the vegetation. Some disturbance to the wildlife inhabiting the area will occur due to the regular visits to the site (approximately every 6 days). The location of sampler D, the west end of Carbone, would require construction of approximately 1/4 mile of scoria covered temporary road. Construction of the road would be accomplished by salvaging the topsoil (one lift) and placing a layer of scoria for the running surface. The scoria road would provide an all-weather access route to the site. Construction of the road would cause minimal disturbance to the native habitats. The site and road would be reclaimed after the site was no longer needed. Some disturbance to the local wildlife community would result during construction of the road and during regular site visits (approximately every 6 days). Erosion resulting from the activities would be minimal.

Alternative Actions:

These air monitoring sites are needed to ensure that Spring Creek Coal operates within the requirements of their Air Quality Permit. The proposed sites are outside of any planned mining activities. Therefore, no alternative sites or actions were considered.