

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

COMPANY NAME: Signal Peak Energy

DATE: 8/13/2009

OPERATING PERMIT#: 93017

MR#: 09-17-04

LOCATION: Bull Mountain Mine No.1, Mussellshell County

Type and Purpose of Action:

This minor revision seeks to modify the mine's currently permitted surface water control plan. An expansion and modification of present mining facilities necessitates changes to the way surface water drainage is directed and controlled. The MR, if approved would add or change culvert sizes, small impoundments, ditches and other drainage details. The modified plan would also update previous facilities that, previously, did not meet rule requirements.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The long run environmental impact of the modifications should be positive with better control of surface runoff and sediment. The short-term impacts related to construction will result in some amount of surface disturbance due to earthwork and construction equipment. To mitigate some of these issues, bmps for surface water protections are to be implemented during construction to continue until soils are stabilized and vegetaion is reestablished. Downstream sediment control impoundments are to be implemented before construction begins so as to contain any sediment generated during construction.

Alternative Actions:

This action is intended to bring the altered mining operations facility into compliance with Montana Administrative Rules designed to protect surface water and the environment. No alternative actions were considered.