

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal

DATE: 8/20/09

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

MR#: 09-12-17

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine, Decker, MT

Type and Purpose of Action:

Mminor revision 09-12-17 requests placement of a water pipeline across the surface of reclamation. The pipeline will be use to transport water for dust control and other surface applications at the mine. Crossing reclamation reduces the length of pipe required and minimizes haul distances required to drive around the reclamation to fill water haulers.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Potential impacts could occur to soils and vegetation during the pipeline installation. The Company has agreed to attempt a single pass across the designated route, by towing the pipe with one piece of mid sized equipment. Pipe segments will be assembled off of reclamation and the leading edge will be attached to a mid sized loader that will tow the pipe to the oster side of reclamation for connection to the pump. Any damage to reclamation other than crushed plants will be ameliorated per current rules and requirements.

Alternative Actions:

Alternative one is to pump directly to the water hauler increasing haul distances and fule resource use.

Alternative two would be to increase the pipe length to follow along the surface road patter. This alternative would increase pipe costs and resource use for pipe fabrication.

Alternative three is to do nothing and leave the water in the pit reducing the Companies ability to suppress dust by limiting the available water on the mine site for dust suppression.