

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal

DATE: 8/24/09

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

MR#: 09-12-16

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine, Decker, MT

Type and Purpose of Action:

This minor revision proposes improvements and updates to the mine's surface water drainage control. More specifically, the MR proposes to add three new culverts, extend three existing culverts and remove an unused culvert. All the culverts are used for drainage across roads. The MR also includes a small disturbance of 0.1 acre for widening of the haul road at the truck dump.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The impacts associated with carrying out this MR are relatively minor as the work will be located within, or in immediate proximity to, existing roads. Installation or removal of culverts will require trenching across existing roads. A small amount of dust, noise and potential for increased erosion exists with the project.

Alternative Actions:

The purpose of the proposed activities is to bring the drainage system up to required standards. The standards exist in part to minimize the potential for erosion and disturbance of land. Not updating the drainage system would be expected to pose more risk to the environment than carrying out the proposed activities.