

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

COMPANY NAME: Decker Coal Company

DATE: 1/15/10

OPERATING PERMIT#: 87001C
LOCATION: T8S, R40E, NW ¼ of Section 33

MR#: 09-01-04

Type and Purpose of Action:

Revise mining permit to allow a decrease in the size of a flood control dam. Decker mine seeks DEQ approval to lower a dam embankment and decrease the water retention capacity of an existing flood control Dam. The mine is interested in conducting strip mine operations at the toe of the existing dam and the large existing embankment is no longer needed. The height of the existing embankment will be reduced and a functional spillway reconstructed.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

This is an earth moving project which will be carried out by suitable equipment such as dozers, scrapers and trucks. The existing surface vegetation will be disrupted, dust may be mobilized, noise and vibration may disrupt wildlife. However, this is an operational strip mine and the area was already disrupted by the original dam construction and mining operation. The area to be disturbed is less than 1 acre. The mine is well versed in the steps needed to minimize disturbance including dust suppression and sediment control measures. The small scale of the project indicates impacts will be minor. The reduced dam height will reduce the extent of adverse impacts that might result from a dam failure.

Alternative Actions:

There are no plausible alternatives.

Prepared by: DA

Title: Environmental Mining Engineer