

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal

DATE: 4/14/2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

MR#: 10-12-04

LOCATION: North side of Pit 4.

Type and Purpose of Action:

The operator proposes re-align the power line along the northern edge of Pit 4. The re-alignment is necessary to accommodate the northern advancement of Pit 4.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Construction of the power line would cause disturbance to the native vegetation associated with the new corridor. The operator committed to conducting construct activities during dry and/or frozen conditions; thus reducing the potential for impacts to soils and vegetation. The new power line would potentially impact raptors by creating a potential for electrocutions and wire strikes. To minimize the potential impacts the new power lines would be constructed to conform with *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power lines: The State of the Art in 2006 [APLIC (2006)]*.

Alternative Actions:

The no action alternative would be to leave the power line in its current location which would prevent advancement of the approved mine plan in Pit 4 to the north. Therefore, this alternative was not considered.

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