

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

COMPANY NAME: Decker Coal Company

DATE: 4/20/2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 87001C

MR#: 10-01-02

LOCATION: West Decker B-Valley Drainage

Type and Purpose of Action:

Minor Revision 10-01-02 was submitted after related discussions with DEQ to provide improved design methods for reclamation of B-Valley drainages and tributaries to improve the quality of reclamation.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Approval of this reclamation design approach is expected to result in improved reclamation with more natural geomorphic features. No additional impacts are expected with this drainage reclamation approach over previous measures. Development of small natural meandering channel features within constructed floodplains will require localized erosion and deposition, which is typical in reclamation. If needed, the operator intends to capture and redistribute any residual soil deposits collected below reclaimed drainage reaches, but these are expected to be minor.

Alternative Actions:

Alternatives to the approved actions would be similar to the operator's previous drainage design submittals including some outdated methods, or other design and reclamation approaches. Some other geomorphic design methods would also be acceptable.

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Title: Surface Water Hydrologist