

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR MINOR REVISION

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal Company

DATE: 4/21/10

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine, Proposed Minor Permit Revision MR 10-12-03

Type and Purpose of Action:

This proposed revision would allow for the installation of three, forty-two inch culverts for access within the mine boundary. The road is temporary and intended to facilitate travel and access within the mine. The culverts would pass any surface water runoff from 387 acres of reclamation under the road and into an existing strip mining pit for storage. The culverts will prevent water from cascading over the end wall of Pit 2 West which causes erosion. The road is located on mine spoils. The current mining permit requires the road to be removed and reclaimed at the end of mining operations along with the surrounding disturbed areas.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

No significant impacts are foreseen. The culverts are expected to have negligible impact on surface or ground water quantity or quality. All runoff from the disturbed area is stored in the pit downstream so no impacts are expected down gradient. The culverts are temporary and the area will be reclaimed as mining advanced. Installation of the culverts will probably entail work with a backhoe and no adverse impact is expected.

Alternative Actions:

An alternative course of action would be to not install the culverts. The environmental consequences of this course of action would probably include a slightly higher potential for minor erosion that the culverts should alleviate.

Prepared by: David Adair