

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR MINOR REVISION

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal Company

DATE: 4/27/2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine, Proposed Minor Permit Revision MR 10-12-02

### Type and Purpose of Action:

This proposed revision would allow for the construction of a sediment control pond and related drainage improvements. The pond will be located on Spring Creek and will serve to capture runoff and sediment from approximately 174 acres of side tributary. The pond will have a surface area of approximately 1.04 acres and storage of 7.96 ac-ft at full pool. The pond will store runoff from a 10-year, 24 hour rainfall event. Overflow from the pond will enter the existing mining pit. After mining is complete the area will be reclaimed and the pond removed when no longer needed. The proposal also includes installation of an 18 inch culvert to convey inflows under a mining road.

### Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

No significant impacts are foreseen. The area to be disturbed is within an active mining area and much of it has already been disturbed. New disturbance will consist of 2.6 acres and procedures for salvaging soils are established. The pond and culvert 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 advances. 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 direct runoff into the active mining pit. However, that could mean disruption of construction and alternate environmental issues such as pumping operations. Construction of the pond appears the rational course of action.

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