

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

COMPANY NAME: Signal Peak Energy, LLC

DATE: 5/7/2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 93017

MR#: 10-17-05

LOCATION: Powerline across the Waste Disposal Area

Type and Purpose of Action:

Signal Peak Energy proposes to remove a segment of power line that transects the Waste Disposal Area (WDA). The power line is in the way of equipment operating in the WDA and presents a hazard in its current location. In order to provide electricity to the Johnson Ranch office, Signal Peak proposes installing a short segment of power line (three poles) that would tie the electrical supply to the Supplemental Service Terminal to the line into the Johnson Ranch facility.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The proposed action would reduce the total length of power line in the area of the WDA. Potential hazards to raptors would be minimized as the powerlines would be constructed in accordance with the *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2006*. The power line construction requirement is addressed in Section 17.24.751(2)(a) of SMP 93017 as an alternate guidance document approved by the Department.

Alternative Actions:

The proposed action ensures the construction of the power line within the permit boundary by the shortest route, thus minimizing the overall disturbance. The only alternative that was considered was not approving the proposed action, which would result in continuation of a hazard within the WDA.

Prepared by: Chris Yde

Title: Supervisor, Coal and Uranium Program