

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal Company

DATE: 6/22/10

OPERATING PERMIT#: 85003C

MR#: 10-12-08

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

The mine operator is requesting approval for modifications to the current hydrologic monitoring network by eliminating four monitoring wells, adding three monitoring wells and adding a surface water monitoring station. The surface water monitoring station would be located on reclaimed South Fork Spring Creek and would be used to validate modeled surface water runoff predictions. The wells proposed for removal are either historically dry, have been replaced by new wells or are in the path of mining. The new wells are proposed for monitoring the recovery of the spoil aquifer.

As an amendment to the original minor revision submittal, the Department requested an additional monitoring well be installed and added to the monitoring network. This well will monitor the movement of water in coal and clinker downgradient of Pit 2.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

No potential negative impacts are anticipated as a result of changes made to the permit. The proposed changes will increase the density of post-mining monitoring, allowing more accurate assessment of changes to the hydrologic balance.

Alternative Actions:

No alternatives, other than no action, were considered.