

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal, LLC

DATE: September 8, 2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: SMP79012

MR#: 08-12-02

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine, Decker, MT

Type and Purpose of Action:

Spring Creek Coal is seeking to modify the permit to include a second landfarm for the treatment of petroleum contaminated material (mainly diesel fuel and hydraulic oil) created by accidental releases associated with mining equipment. The second landfarm would be located along the east side of the Neco Rd., approximately 250' to the south of Landfarm 1. Both landfarms are located in the Pit 2 area.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Potential impacts are minimal. The landfarm will be lined and bermed with grey-clay shales, preventing flow into or from the structure. The liner will be machine compacted in two, six- inch lifts. Construction will include a sump to contain runoff from the landfarm of sufficient size to contain the 2-year 24-hour storm event. Accumulated fluid will be removed for re-use or proper disposal. Sampling for TPH will occur prior to any release of fluids from the contained area.

Groundwater is approximately 152 feet below the surface at the proposed landfarm location. Existing monitoring wells adjacent to the landfarm that are part of the current monitoring plan will be sampled at least annually for hydrocarbons.

Alternative Actions:

A no action alternative was considered. It would result in an increased load of contaminated material being added to the existing landfarm, delaying effective and timely remediation.

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Title: Groundwater Hydrologist