

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

COMPANY NAME: Signal Peak Energy

DATE: September 28, 2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: SMP 93017

MR#: 10-17-20

LOCATION: Bull Mountains Mine No. 1, T6N, R26E, Sections 12 and 13

Type and Purpose of Action:

The operator proposes to bury a waterline to avoid freezing in the winter. The request plans to windrow soils, create a trench, and bury the water line 6 feet deep. Following installation of the pipeline, the soils would be replaced and the disturbance seeded.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Impacts would be sustained on one strip of ground currently holding the pipe to be buried. The vegetation would temporarily suffer from equipment traffic and soil movement. The site would be either minimally disturbed by limiting equipment traffic to one pass for trenching and pipe installation (Alternative 1), or soil will be salvaged prior to work in the case there is heavy equipment traffic required to install the pipe (Proposed Action).

Alternative Actions:

Leave the pipe on the surface and keep an access road open to fix freezes and conduct pipe maintenance. The department also requested that the operator consider not salvaging the soils and use a trencher to install the pipeline. This would result in less over disturbance; however, a minimal amount of soil material would be mixed with the overburden upon reclamation of the trench.

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