

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

COMPANY NAME: Signal Peak Energy

DATE: October 29, 2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 93017

MR#: 10-17-22

LOCATION: Bull Mountains Mine, T6N, R26E, Section 14

Type and Purpose of Action:

The operator has submitted a request to add a life-of-mine laydown area just north of the coal preparation facility. The laydown area will be used for the short term outside storage of plant equipment and materials. The laydown area was previously approved and constructed as a temporary facility during construction at the plant. An EA was drafted for the original request. It has become apparent there is a continuing need for the storage area for the duration of the plant operation. The purpose of this action is to change the permitted status of the laydown area from temporary to life-of-mine.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The area has already been constructed had the top soil stripped and windrowed. The extent of further construction will be transport of the windrowed topsoil to an approved storage stockpile and maintenance of the site. Potential impacts are expected to be negligible.

Alternative Actions:

An outside storage facility is needed; other locations offer no advantages over this site. This option is expected to have the least impact.

Prepared by: David Adair, P.E.

Title: Mining Engineer