

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal

DATE: 2/3/11

OPERATING PERMIT#: 79012

MR#: 11-12-01

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine, Decker, MT

Type and Purpose of Action:

Spring creek mine requests a new soil stockpile location in order to save salvageable topsoil for future reclamation. The site is required because access to existing stockpiles will be cut off due to topography.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The impacts are realized in a degradation to the soil structural quality. To mitigate this soils are direct hauled when possible or moved to a stockpile footprint once then to reclamation unless absolutely necessary.

Alternative Actions:

There are two alternatives. Alternative one is to leave the soil in place allowing it to be spoiled in the mining process. This alternative is excluded by law. Alternative two is to create a haul road down an almost vertical slope to existing stockpiles. This second alternative will only add to cost and fuel use as re-establishing the road after every cut must overcome an increasing slope angle and height as mining progresses.