

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

COMPANY NAME: Signal Peak Energy

DATE: February 28, 2011

OPERATING PERMIT#: SMP 93017

MR#: 11-17-03

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

Type and Purpose of Action:

With this minor revision the operator is proposing to modify Surface Mine Permit 93017 to provide for three stockpile locations for the temporary storage of waste rock. The waste rock is a by-product of the underground mining operation. To date, any rock removed during mining has been conveyed to the surface, processed along with coal and conveyed to the coal waste disposal area (WDA). Processing rock wears out plant equipment so the operator is proposing to remove the rock from the conveyor before reaching the processing plant and stockpile it for later truck transport to the WDA.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Potential impacts are expected to be negligible. The stockpile locations are within the active mine facilities area at locations previously heavily disturbed by mining operations. The topsoil has already been removed and stockpiled for later reclamation. The rock is sandstone with a small amount of included coal fines. The rock composition is such that no impact on water quality is expected. Additionally, the stockpile locations are within areas currently subject to sediment control practices, runoff from these areas will be directed to existing sediment control ponds. The required trucking operation will take place within the active mine area on existing roads. Additional impacts to plant and wildlife are expected to be minor.

Alternative Actions:

No alternatives were considered as the action is expected to have minimal impact to the environment.

Prepared by: David Adair, PE

Title: Mining Engineer