

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

COMPANY NAME: Decker Coal Company      DATE: March 18, 2011

OPERATING PERMIT#: 87001C

MR#: MR\_11-01-02

LOCATION: West Decker, Pit 11

Type and Purpose of Action:

After several related discussions with DEQ, Decker Coal Company is proposing this revision and refinement to the Pond Creek drainage to ensure that an efficient tie-in between the gradient of the undisturbed drainage and the disturbed drainage is achieved.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Approval of this reclamation design approach is expected to result in improved reclamation with more natural geomorphic features. No additional impacts are expected with this drainage reclamation approach over previous measures. Development of small natural meandering channel features within constructed floodplains will require localized erosion and deposition, which is typical in reclamation.

Alternative Actions:

Alternatives to the approved actions would be similar to the operator's previous drainage design submittals including some outdated methods, or other design and reclamation approaches. Some other geomorphic design methods would also be acceptable.

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