

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal Company

DATE: March 29, 2011

OPERATING PERMIT#: C1979012

MR#: 11-12-02

LOCATION: Pearson Creek Amendment Area

Type and Purpose of Action:

Spring Creek Coal LLC (SCC) requested a minor revision to modify the mine's groundwater monitoring plan. The purpose of the modification is to discontinue groundwater monitoring of three wells (owned by Decker Coal Company) that were used during Pearson Creek Amendment baseline studies. SCC would cease groundwater monitoring at overburden/clinker well WRN-12 (1221-74) and Anderson-Dietz coal wells 2057-80 and 2110-80.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

These wells were used to gather baseline data and are at a substantial distance from proposed mining. Suspension of monitoring of these wells by Spring Creek is not anticipated to be a problem as monitoring by adjacent permittee and owner of the wells, Decker Coal Company, will resume monitoring the wells.

Alternative Actions:

No alternative actions were considered as no impacts due to this monitoring change are anticipated.

Prepared by: Angela McDannel

Title: Groundwater Hydrologist