

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal

DATE: March 29, 2011

OPERATING PERMIT#: 87001C

MR#: MR 11-12-03

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine, Decker, MT

Type and Purpose of Action:

Spring Creek Coal (SCC) is requesting approval for modifications to an approved power line installation at the east end of Pit 4. Due to scheduling and power line equipment installation limitations, a portion of previously approved MR 10-12-17 is no longer viable. SCC is proposing to continue to use the existing power line in this area as an alternative. The operator is requesting a minor revision to install an electrical substation along this existing power line.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The proposed substation addition would cause disturbance to the native, or reclaimed vegetation associated with the work area. Since, a new substation in the area was already approved by MR 10-12-17, the proposed substation would not result in an increase in disturbance area and no additional mitigation is necessary.

Alternative Actions:

An alternative substation location would offer no environmental advantage over the one chosen. The expected impacts are very minor, so alternatives were not considered.

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Title: Mining Engineer