

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal, LLC

DATE: November 16, 2012

PERMIT#: C1979012

REVISION NO: MR180

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

The purpose of the request is to drill up to 5 test wells for geologic and hydrologic testing (pumping rates) within the Spring Creek and / or Decker mine permit areas.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The test wells are temporary wells that will be abandoned within the year, and no long term impacts to the hydrologic balance are expected from these temporary wells. Pumped water will be directed to an open mine pit on the Decker property. The test wells will be bonded and properly abandoned in accordance with ARM 17.24.647.

Alternative Actions:

If the test wells were not approved, Spring Creek Mine may not have sufficient information to place their proposed production well TR2.

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Title: Hydrologist

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