

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal, LLC

DATE: December 20, 2012

PERMIT#: C1979012

REVISION NO: MR181

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

The purpose of the revision is to alter SCC's water sampling program to match a program requested by DEQ. Specifically, the suite of analytes measured in groundwater and surface water samples is requested to be changed.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The change in SCC's water sampling program will ensure that SCC's water monitoring program can detect harmful analytes at the newly revised human health and aquatic life limits. Additionally, the suite of analytes (as proposed by DEQ) will allow for standardization of sampling programs at all coal mines allowing DEQ to better compare and analyze water quality at all regulated mines.

Alternative Actions:

The alternative action would be to not approve the change to the water sampling program and to have SCC keep their current analytical suite. This may result in samples with reporting limits about the limits recommended in the 2012 DEQ-7 and may not provide the DEQ with data at a fine enough resolution to detect changes in harmful metals or nutrients. The proposed change in the analyte suite will not make SCC's monitoring program less stringent with regards to metals and ions of environmental concern.

Prepared by: Emily Hinz

Title: Hydrologist

FC: 620.456