

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS



STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

CAPITOL STATION

STATE OF MONTANA

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OCT 02 1992
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL

September 22, 1992

MEMORANDUM

TO: File 621.07

FROM: Neil Harrington, Reclamation Program Supervisor *NH*
Coal and Uranium Bureau

RE: Environmental Assessment (EA) on Proposal by PM Coal
Company to Expand Underground Mining and the Permit
Area (Application No. 00150 and MR 92-08-02)

PM Coal Company has proposed to extend its room and pillar underground coal mining operation so that it would underlie an additional area of land of approximately 9.1 acres. This would be accomplished by advancing the existing four entries and cross cut coal extraction pattern already permitted further to the northeast and east. Also, PM has requested that 3.25 acres be added to the permit area to accommodate this additional mining.

In response to a requirement by the Department, PM has provided sufficient additional bond for the hauling to and backfilling in the pit of an estimate of almost 10,000 cubic yards of coal waste which would be generated by processing of coal from this proposed mine expansion. All other permit requirements for reclamation of the mine would continue to apply.

Attached is an EA checklist which indicates that there would be no significant impacts from this proposed underground mine expansion.

/etc

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

APPLICANT PM Coal Company

TYPE OF OPERATION Underground Coal Mine

LOCATION 14 miles southeast of Roundup, MT; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13, T6N, R26E

PERSON PREPARING E.A. Neil Harrington

APPLICATION COMPLETE Yes E.A. COMPLETE Yes

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u>			x	x	x	
2. <u>GEOLOGY</u> ; stability			x	x	x	
3. <u>SOILS</u> ; Quality, Distribution			x	x	x	
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality, Quantity Distribution			x	x	x	
5. <u>AIR</u> ; Quality			x	x	x	
6. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE,</u> or <u>LIMITED</u> environmental resources			x	x	x	
BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN,</u> and <u>AQUATIC</u> ; species and habitats			x	x	x	
2. <u>VEGETATION</u> ; quantity, quality, species			x	x	x	
3. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops production			x	x	x	

