

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

COMPANY NAME: Signal Peak Energy

DATE: April 1, 2010

OPERATING PERMIT#: 93017

MR# 10-17-02

LOCATION: Bull Mountains Mine, T6N, R26E, Sections 12 and 13.

Type and Purpose of Action:

The operator is proposing to slightly modify the perimeter boundary of the area which will be used for storage of coal waste. If approved, the coal waste disposal area will be increased from approximately 179.5 acres to approximately 196.6 acres. The area to be added consists of natural topographic ridges currently protruding into the already approved disposal area. The proposal will allow for stripping of top soil and suitable fill from the ridges, placement of coal waste and covering of the waste will four feet of suitable material and topsoil.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

The incremental impacts are very small as the areas to be added are currently surrounded on three sides by approved waste disposal areas. Certain environmental advantages may exist in that needed fill material can be harvested from the proposed disturbed areas rather than from nearby undisturbed lands.

Alternative Actions:

Not approve the boundary modification.

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