

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal, LLC

DATE: August 20, 2013

PERMIT#: C1979012

REVISION NO: MR192

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

MR 192 seeks Department approval to remove bat monitoring from Spring Creek's current wildlife monitoring plan. The Department, in cooperation with the Natural Heritage Program, is currently conducting nightly bat monitoring data with programmable continuous recorders. This data is being processed by the Heritage Program staff, incorporated into their statewide monitoring program, and will be reported back to both the Department and Spring Creek Mine. Spring Creek intends to incorporate/reference this report into their annual wildlife monitoring reports.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Stronger data collection is now ongoing with the continuous recorders so Spring Creek will not have to duplicate data collection. The data collected with the continuous recorders can tell more specie data as well as more accurate numbers. Spring Creek was collecting a count on one night a year.

Alternative Actions:

Spring Creek could maintain their one night a year observation, but very limited additional data could be gained.

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