

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal, LLC DATE: July 23, 2015

PERMIT#: C1979012

REVISION NO: MR211

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

MR211 proposes to alter the hydrologic monitoring plan by adding new monitoring wells and abandoning two wells in the path of mining. Also, a new pond is proposed to be added to the monitoring plan.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Drilling new wells and digging a new pond will create a small localized disturbance immediately around the activity site. Impacts will be minimized by spreading out cuttings from drilling.

Alternative Actions:

The additional monitoring wells will be used to monitor mining impacts and to establish baseline water quality before mine disturbance. The alternative is to not drill the wells which would result in less information and monitoring of effects.

The sediment control pond has already been approved and will be used to control runoff from the mine site from leaving the permit area. This action adds the pond to the monitoring plan and is administrative.

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