

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

COMPANY NAME: Spring Creek Coal, LLC

DATE: September 4, 2013

PERMIT#: C1979012

REVISION NO: MR191

LOCATION: Spring Creek Mine

Type and Purpose of Action:

Modify and update the hydrologic monitoring plan, known as the Monitoring and Quality Assurance Plan (MQAP). This update was requested by the DEQ of all coal mines. The update will place the hydrologic monitoring plan in the permit, states the mine's quality assurance plans, and lists the sampling plans and protocols. No new sites were added to the monitoring plan, however, a well and some ponds were removed from the plan. The well has been gassy for a number of years and posed a danger to monitor while the ponds were mined through.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures:

Except for the removal of well WR-62, this Minor Revision is an administrative change that does not affect the scope of the hydrologic monitoring program or the commitments by Spring Creek Coal, LLC to perform environmental monitoring on the mine site. Well WR-62 has been unable to be safely monitored for a number of years. No impacts are anticipated from this permit change and therefore, no mitigation measures were considered.

Alternative Actions:

No alternatives were considered.

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