



**Montana Department of  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

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January 15, 2010

Mr. John Skriner  
Project Coordinator  
Maple Carpenter Creek  
2925 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. N.  
Billings, MT 59101

RE: Test Pit Application; Completeness Determination

Dear John:

The Department has completed its review of Maple Carpenter Creek's Test Pit application, submitted on September 18, 2009 and revised with a completeness deficiency response on December 17, 2009. The Department has determined the application to be administratively complete.

Pursuant to 82-4-231(5), MCA, the Department has also determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the amendment is not required. The Department does not believe that significant impacts to the quality of the human environment will occur as a result of the proposed activity. The Department will prepare a comprehensive Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed project. If during the development of the EA, a significant impact that cannot be mitigated is identified the process will shift to and EIS. Maple Carpenter Creek may proceed with publishing its public notice as per 17.24.401(3).

The Department will proceed with its technical review of the application. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Department.

Sincerely,

Chris A. Yde, Supervisor  
Coal and Uranium Program  
Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau  
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CY/sg

C: Jeff Fleischman, OSM, Casper  
Gene Hay, OSM, Denver

FC: Prospecting 331 (Carpenter Creek Test Pit)