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Gabe Johnson  
Spring Creek Coal LLC  
Spring Creek Mine  
PO Box 67  
Decker, MT 59025

Permit ID: C1979012  
Revision Type: Amendment  
Permitting Action: Deficiency  
Subject: APPAM5; Arrowhead Amendment-Round 3 Acceptability Deficiency

Dear Gabe:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed its acceptability review regarding Spring Creek Coal LLC's application for Amendment APPAM5. The following deficiencies must be adequately addressed before DEQ can determine the application acceptable:

**ARM 17.24.305(2)(a):** There appears to be several maps tagged as APPAM5 which are not listed on the Map Affidavit submitted for this amendment. Please ensure that all maps that were submitted with AM5 are listed on the Map Affidavit.

**ARM 17.24.308(1)(f):** The dwg file for the noxious weed map has not been updated with the amendment boundary. Please update the CAD files for the noxious weed map.

**ARM 17.24.313(1):** There were a number of references added to the text to address the concerns of compaction to the alluvial layer, construction timing, and other items.

The references are Appendix L, Attachment H; Appendix K, section 1.3.1; and section 3.5.1 of Appendix J. Please clarify these references by adding a locational cue. For example: Appendix K (Plans for Ponds and Embankments). This will improve the connection between topics since they are not attached to the same sections of the permit.

**ARM 17.24.313(1)(c):** A bond calculation must be submitted and approved prior to DEQ ruling the application acceptable. If additional bond is required, it must be in place prior to DEQ making a decision on the amendment application.

**ARM 17.24.313(1)(h)(x):** There is no supporting documentation for the "Cropland" technical standards included in Table 7 of Addendum 313B. Please include an explanation

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as to how these numbers were derived.

**ARM 17.24.317(1):** The proposed Youngs Creek diversion has no narrative explaining how it will be compliant with ARM 17.24.751. As this will be diverting an active channel with fish species present, SCCC must address fish passage for this diversion.

**ARM 17.24.324(1)(b):** The discussion includes references to other areas of the permit; however, they are named as attachments and appendices. Please indicate what they are appending or attached to.

**ARM 17.24.324(1)(h):** Three reference area locations are now shown on Plate 23, Sheet 2. They are all upgradient of the haul road as requested during the previous deficiency. The legend for this map states there are four reference areas when there are only three. Please update the legend to accurately reflect what is on the map.

**ARM 17.24.724(3):** There is no supporting documentation for the "Cropland" technical standards included in Table 7 of Addendum 313B. Please include an explanation as to how these numbers were derived.

Upon receipt of satisfactory responses to these deficiencies, DEQ will determine the application to be acceptable.

Please feel free to contact Robert D. Smith at 406-444-7444 with questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



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Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau  
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Cc: Jeff Fleischman, Office of Surface Mining  
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