



June 3, 2021

*Sent via electronic mail*

Laura Ackermann  
Spring Creek Coal, LLC  
Spring Creek Coal Mine  
P.O. Box 67  
Decker, MT 59025-0000

Permit ID: C1979012  
Revision Type: Transfer  
Permitting Action: Approval  
Subject: Approval of Transfer SO1

Dear Laura Ackermann:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has reviewed the information submitted on November 21, 2019 and revised through May 6, 2021, and finds, as required by ARM 17.24.418(4) that:

1. The information required by ARM 17.24.418(1) through (2) was provided to DEQ;
2. In accordance with ARM 17.24.418(3), the applicant advertised the filing of the application in the Billings Gazette on May 9, 2021, and no public comments were received by the end of the 15-day comment period (May 24, 2021);
3. The entities seeking control of the permit are qualified under the Act to hold a permit and that they will conduct operations under the permit in accordance with the Act and rules adopted pursuant thereto (AVS check May 24, 2021);
4. The applicant has provided a surety bond in the amount of \$117,550,000.00 to replace the existing bond and provide the necessary increase in bond for initiation of activities under review with Transfer SO1 and MR256; and,
5. The applicant will continue to conduct the operations involved in full compliance with the terms and conditions of SMP C1979012.

These findings having been made, DEQ hereby notifies the applicant that the business transaction outlined by the proposed change of ownership can take place. DEQ requires that, as soon as the transaction is consummated, it be notified by the applicant so that the permit may be updated accordingly, and the current bond may be released - being replaced with the surety bond provided as part of the transfer application.

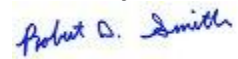
Enclosed for your records is a copy of the updated SMP C1979012, which will expire on April 11, 2024.

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A copy of the updated materials has been forwarded to the OSM offices in Casper and Denver.

Sincerely,



Robert Smith, Supervisor

Coal Section

Coal and Opencut Mining Bureau

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Cc: Jeff Fleischman, Office of Surface Mining  
Erica Trent, Office of Surface Mining