

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 4

This exhibit exceeds 10-page maximum; therefore only a small portion of the exhibit is scanned for your research. The original exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and may be viewed there

Montana Historical Society Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-1201; phone (406) 444-4774. For minutes in paper format, please contact the Montana State Law Library, Justice Building, 215 N. Sanders, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-3660. Tapes and exhibits are also available at the Historical Society (tapes are retained for five years). Scanning done by: Susie Hamilton

EXHIBIT 4
1/28/05
5

Blue Range Engineering Co., Inc.

56 E. Mercury St.

Butte, MT 59701

406-782-9354 Phone

406-782-9051 FAX

blueranger@theglobal.net

January 27, 2005

State of Montana
House of Representatives
Long-range Planning Appropriations Subcommittee
Helena, MT 59620

Attention: Representative Wells, Chairman

Dear Chairman Wells and members of the subcommittee:

I am writing to urge your support for the proposed new building for the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG), and the Montana Tech Petroleum Department (PD).

I utilize the Bureau often, and know many of the limitations of the present location. Main Hall is a grand old building, but it was never designed for an operation as modern and diversified as the MBMG. Several years ago I was injured in an industrial accident. Not being able to work, I wanted to research some mining and water issues, but it was absolutely impossible because of a three block walk from parking, then four long flights of stairs (and a short one at the entrance), with no elevator, and widely separated offices. A new visitor needs a road map, physician's approval, and a sack lunch to visit more than one office. The real daily cost of operations, as well as productivity, is seriously affected by the time involved to move people and material. There is no room for expansion. On the positive side, however, employees and visitors get a wonderful daily stair workout, whether they want it or not.

As you agonize over how best to spend the State's limited income among a crush of worthwhile projects, you are painfully aware of how much revenue the declining industrial base has cost us. Natural resource development, with the associated jobs, taxes, and purchases has been constantly attacked and severely limited in the name of environmental protection, real or perceived. Many of the arguments against the extractive businesses are emotionally based, with little factual support. We need the facts.

The MBMG is one of the few truly neutral sources of facts the legislature and the regulatory agencies have to rely on when making decisions regarding mineral and water development. The Bureau is neither a regulatory nor an oversight agency, but one of investigation and research. As such, the role of the organization will become increasingly important, and the demands on its services multiplied, as the search for balance becomes more acute. I believe this investment in the future of the MBMG will be repaid many times over.

Sincerely,



Larry C. Hoffman, P.E.
President



Gallatin Local Water Quality District

311 W. Main, Room 311, Courthouse • Bozeman, Montana 59715

(406) 582-3148 • (406) 582-3145 • Fax (406) 582-3095

www.co.gallatin.mt.us/GLWQD

January 26, 2005

Long-Range Planning Appropriations Subcommittee
2005 Montana Legislator
Attention: Representative Wells, Chairman

Subject: New Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology/Petroleum Engineering Building

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to express my sincere and strong support for funding for a new building on the Montana Tech Campus to house the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) and the Petroleum Engineering Department. Both the MBMG and the Petroleum Engineering Department are in real need of new, modern facilities to carry out their programs.

While I have not worked directly with the Petroleum Engineering Department, as a geologist, I know that graduates from the Department have an excellent reputation internationally. The Department also serves an important role in Montana's economy, helping to promote energy development. Services to students, and the petroleum industry would be better served with the new building.

As a former employee of the MBMG I am very aware of the struggles the MBMG has had with Main Hall. I worked in the basement of Main Hall for three years. It is the only place I have ever worked where I questioned my own safety. There were problems with asbestos in my office, and there was no hot water in the bathrooms. On many days there was no running water in the bathrooms. I observed numerous problems with ventilation, electrical, and plumbing systems.

I am currently employed as a hydrogeologist for the Gallatin Local Water Quality District. In this capacity I often refer to geologic and hydrogeologic research conducted by MBMG. With coalbed methane issues raised in the Bozeman area, I have relied heavily on the expertise and information provided by the MBMG. For ground-water research I access information compiled by the Ground Water Information Center (GWIC) on a regular basis. The database maintained by the GWIC is probably the best of its kind in the nation. I also rely on the ground-water monitoring data being collected by MBMG for the Statewide Ground Water Monitoring Program. The Bureau also provides many other services such as earthquake monitoring that are vital to Montana.

The MBMG has struggled for decades to continue to provide these important services and operate out of Main Hall. Often times MBMG and Montana Tech have spend money inefficiently to try and temporarily fix problems. I believe that the MBMG is significantly hindered by the limitations of the facility they must operate out of. For the benefit of the MBMG, the Petroleum Engineering Department, and the people of Montana, I strongly encourage you to consider funding this new building. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at 582-3148.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan English".

Alan English
Manager



600 Shields Avenue
Butte, Montana 59701
Office (406) 496-3200
Fax (406) 723-9542

January 27, 2005

Dr. Edmond G. Deal
Director and State Geologist
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
Montana Tech of The University of Montana
1300 West Park Street
Butte, Montana 59701

Subject: Letter in Support of Minerals Research Center

To Whom It May Concern:

Montana is a State incorporating diverse geologic terrains, rich in minerals, fossil fuels, and land resources.

Perspective

With urban development encroaching on our open spaces, the need for sensible development is paramount. The identification of geologic hazards, the location of water resources, the design of building foundations, and the location of septic systems are all important considerations. All are based on information compiled by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. The availability of the necessary data is the result of ongoing study and research funded by State and Federal sources.

Montana is rich in mineral resources and with the increasing demand for metals, industrial minerals, and fossil fuels minerals research is necessary to encourage discovery, permitting, development, and production of these commodities that are necessary to sustain the lifestyle that we all take for granted.

Funding to construct a research center that would house the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and Montana Tech's Petroleum Engineering Department is an investment in Montana's future.

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

270 S. Prospect Street, PO Box 1200, Forsyth, MT 59327

(406) 346-7479

www.rosebudcd.org

January 27, 2005

Edmond Deal
Director and State Geologist
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
1300 West Park Street
Butte, Montana 59701

Dear Edmond:

Rosebud Conservation District would like to offer their support for construction of a new campus research center at Montana Tech. As you know, the current building is too small and has both safety and accessibility issues.

The district has benefited from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's expertise for many years. They are an invaluable source of data and interpretation of data. Rosebud Conservation District relies on MBMG for information on ground water, as well as energy and geology. The staff at the Bureau always goes the extra mile to assist us, and their support often means the difference between the success and failure of a project.

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology is mandated to provide service and applied research on the nature, occurrence, and responsible development of geologic and ground-water resources of the state. It is Rosebud Conservation District's opinion that a new research center will enable them to do that.

Sincerely,

Rosebud Conservation District Board of Supervisors:

Dave Davenport, Chairman

Jim Rogers, Vice-Chairman

Doug McRae, Secretary

Steve Lackman

Don Youngbauer

Wendy Warren

Deal, Edmond

From: Tom Osborne [TomO@hydrosi.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2005 2:00 PM
To: Deal, Edmond
Cc: Miller, Marvin
Subject: New building for Montana Tech

January 26, 2005

Edmond G. Deal
Director and State Geologist
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
1300 West Park Street
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Dr. Deal:

I recently learned of the request to construct a new building at Montana Tech, and I want to lend my support. I understand that this building would be a campus research center that would initially house the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and Tech's Petroleum Engineering Department. As you know, I was an employee of MBMG back in the early 1980's, and shared an office on the top floor. While a grand old building, it certainly is not "user friendly" for the public that needs to access the people and resources of MBMG. The MBMG has certainly made the best with that building for many decades, but with computer and laboratory facilities, and the need for research and teaching space, new and updated space for the Bureau is long overdue.

In addition, there would be a wealth of good to come from being co-located with the Geology and Petroleum Engineering Departments. I have owned my own hydrology and environmental consulting business since 1997, and I insist on being co-located with my peers in the engineering or environmental science businesses because it pays dividends in new business and opportunities. I specifically seek out employees from Montana Tech and the MBMG because I know they are the best in my business. Montana Tech and the public it serves will benefit from the proposed building.

Best of luck with this proposal, and let me know if I can be of any more support.

Regards,
Tom Osborne, President
HydroSolutions Inc.
2526 Grand Avenue
Billings, MT 59102
406-655-9555

1/27/2005

Dr. Edmond G. Deal
Director and State Geologist
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
Montana Tech of The UM
1300 W. Park Street
Butte, MT 59701

January 26, 2005

Dear Ed,

I strongly support the proposal that you, Chancellor Gilmore, and Dr. Evans plan to submit to the State Legislature for a new building for the MBMG and the Petroleum Engineering Departments. Since coming to Montana in 1994, I have worked closely with geologists from the MBMG -- Karen Porter and Larry Smith in particular. I also did some work on the Rabbit Hills Petroleum Characterization Project with Chuck Wideman in the Petroleum Engineering Department in the mid-1990's. During these working visits to the Butte campus, I have seen the cramped, outdated nature of the Main Hall building and wholly agree that it is inadequate to the tasks MBMG are mandated to perform for the state.

Given the important services that MBMG staff performs for the state and the direct bottom-line benefits of these services to the state economy, it seems only reasonable that the MBMG and Petroleum Engineering Departments be provided with modern working conditions. Moreover, as more of our groundwater resources are exploited and as demand for extractable hydrocarbons continues to increase, the services provided by MBMG will become even more crucial to the state economy and it will become increasingly difficult for the Bureau and Petroleum Engineering Departments to fulfill their state mandates.

I have found MBMG staff scientists to be very knowledgeable and quick to cooperate on projects of interest to the state. These interactions not only have accelerated the work on various state-relevant projects, such as quantification of the distribution of groundwater resources in Montana valley systems, but also they have served to provide University of Montana students with whom I'm involved with a second set of scientific mentors. This mentorship is of direct benefit to many Montana students.

In summary, I support the proposal to earmark funding for a new combined MBMG/Petroleum Engineering building for Montana Tech. Geologists at the MBMG and engineers in the Petroleum Engineering Department have worked for years in an inadequate building environment, and I think it is time to provide these scientists with the facilities they need to maximize the results of their work.

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions about this letter of support.

With Best Regards,

Marc S. Hendrix
Professor of Geology

January 27, 2005

Edmond Deal
Director and State Geologist
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
1300 West Park Street
Butte, Montana 59701

Dear Ed:

I would like to offer my support for construction of the new campus research center at Montana Tech. I have visited the existing facility in Butte, and while impressed with the ability of the staff to function in such close quarters, it obviously is too small and has both safety and accessibility issues.

I have worked on cooperative projects with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology for many years. In these projects the Bureau has provided expertise on mine reclamation, energy development and water resources, and the results have benefited Montana. The staff at the Bureau always goes the extra mile to assist us, and their support often means the difference between the success and failure of a project.

A modern facility will better allow the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to fulfill its legislative mandate to provide service and applied research on the nature, occurrence, and responsible development of geologic and ground-water resources of the state.

Sincerely,



Terry Brown, PhD
Poudre Valley Environmental Sciences, Inc.
Fort Collins, CO

Deal, Edmond

From: Ted Campen [log.man@bresnan.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2005 3:10 PM
To: Deal, Edmond; Gilmore, Frank; jevans@mech.edu
Cc: Lopez, David (Billings)
Subject: Research Lab

----- Original Message -----

From: Betsy Campen
To: log.man@bresnan.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2005 3:01 PM

Gentlemen: David Lopez has informed us that there is a possibility that Montana Tech might receive a grant to fund a new campus research center that would house the Montana Bureau of Mines and MT Tech's Petroleum Engineering Department. My wife, Betsy, and I spent a considerable amount of time at Tech while my grandson, Erik Nelson, was getting his degree in PE. While the education was superb, the facilities left much to be desired. Frankly, we wondered how it was possible to provide the technology necessary for him to compete with graduates from more modern universities in such antiquated facilities.

Now that Montana is finally realizing some benefits from it's oil and gas business, it seems only right that the state should give some of that revenue back to the source of much of that data.

Along with oil and gas, mapping and ground water will play a large roll in Montana's future. I truly hope that the funds to provide this research center will be made available for a center to pursue technology in these fields.

Sincerely yours,

Edward B. Campen
Petroleum Engineer
President, Campen Consultants, Inc.

Deal, Edmond

From: Betsy Campen [Betsycampen@bresnan.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2005 2:51 PM
To: Deal, Edmond; Gilmore, Frank; jevans@mech.edu
Cc: Lopez, David (Billings)
Subject: New MBMG building

Gentlemen: it has come to our attention that there is a possibility for funding for modern building for the PE department and MBMG. I am definitely in favor of such funding. In my opinion, it must be difficult to maintain the necessary quality of research and technology in the antiquated building that is currently being used. Only with efficient classrooms and modern laboratory facilities can Montana Tech keep up to speed and attract qualified students, who could otherwise go to places like Texas A and M.

Finally Montana is deriving some income from it's oil and gas reserves. It would be wonderful to be up-to-date in the facilities in which to further this potential.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Campen
V.P. Campen Consultants
Certified Petroleum Geologist
Past President MGS
Past Executive Committe AAPG