

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Carter County Padden Gravel Source

Proposed Implementation Date: 7/97

Proponent: Carter County, Box 315, Ekalaka MT 59324

Type and Purpose of Action: The operator has applied for a 40.0-acre area where they propose to salvage all available soil material, remove an unknown quantity of mineral, grade the site, replace the soil material, and seed to grassland. The estimated date for final reclamation is 2007.

Location and County: About 4 miles north of Capitol South Dakota in the NENE26, T3S, R62E, Carter County

N = Not present or insignificant impact.  
Y = An impact may occur (explain).

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>1. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY, AND GEOLOGIC AND EDAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, SUITABILITY, AND STABILITY: Are there unusual geologic features? Are fragile, compactible, or unstable soils present? Is the proposed soil material handling adequate? Are there exceptional mining and reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>N - Location and topography: The site is located on the west side of a county road in a relatively flat pasture. The surrounding area is also relatively flat.</p> <p>Geologic and edaphic characteristics: The site is in the sedimentary plains portion of the state and no unusual geologic features were noticed during a site visit. The depth of soil is unknown but should be fairly good considering that the site is flat grassland. The county is committed to salvaging and replacing all soil material.</p> <p>Exceptional mining and reclamation considerations: None.</p>
<p>2. WATER RESOURCE LOCATION, QUANTITY, QUALITY, AND PROTECTION: Are groundwater or surface water resources present? Is there the potential for degradation of water quality or quantity? Could water wells be affected? Are there exceptional mining and reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>N - Groundwater resources or wells: None apparent.</p> <p>Surface water resources: There's an ephemeral drainage along the south side of the site. Operations should not affect this area.</p> <p>Exceptional mining and reclamation considerations: None.</p>
<p>3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Do air quality regulations apply?</p>	<p>N - Pollutants and particulates will be produced on a temporary basis by mining and reclamation activities. Operators are required to comply with state air quality regulations.</p>
<p>4. PRESENT LAND USE, VEGETATIVE COMPOSITION AND COVER, PROPOSED POSTMINING LAND USE, AND WEED CONTROL: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or vegetative communities present? Are there exceptional mining and reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>N - Vegetation and present land use: the site is pasture being used as such.</p> <p>Proposed postmining land use: Pasture.</p> <p>Rare plants or rare vegetative communities: None apparent. If the Montana Natural Heritage Program report indicates such resources in the area, the Department will take necessary steps to ensure protection.</p> <p>Weed control: The Department will notify the county weed control board about the operation. The operator has committed to controlling any on-site noxious weeds.</p> <p>Exceptional mining and reclamation considerations: None.</p>

<p>5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by common or rare mammals, birds, fish, or other animal species?</p>	<p>N - Common species or evidence of their use of the area: None apparent.</p> <p>Rare species or evidence of their use of the area: None apparent.</p> <p>If the Montana Natural Heritage Program report indicates such resources in the area, the Department will take necessary steps to ensure protection.</p>
<p>6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Species of special concern? Riparian areas? Wetlands?</p>	<p>N - Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources within or around the site: Author is not aware of such resources within or adjacent to the proposed site.</p> <p>Riparian areas or wetlands: There is an ephemeral drainageway along the south side of the site. Operations should not disturb this area.</p> <p>If the Montana Natural Heritage Program report indicates such resources in the area, the Department will take necessary steps to ensure protection.</p>
<p>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Has the site been surveyed by a cultural resource professional or paraprofessional? Are any historical or archaeological resources present?</p>	<p>N - Archaeological or historical resources: A site visit revealed none of the mentioned resources. If such resources are found, the operator has committed to routing the operation around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made, and to promptly notifying the State Historic Preservation Office.</p>
<p>8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? What facilities will be on site? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>N - Aesthetics: Site is along a county road in a remote area.</p> <p>Facilities to be on site: Unknown.</p> <p>Excessive noise or light: Will not be a problem.</p>
<p>9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR, OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect or be affected by the project?</p>	<p>N - There will not be a significant demand or impact on environmental resources or other activities as a result of this operation.</p>
<p>10. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OR IMPACTS: Are there other studies, plans, or projects on this tract? Will waste disposal be properly handled? Is reclamation guaranteed by a bond?</p>	<p>N - The author is not aware of any other environmental aspects or impacts. The operator has committed to proper waste disposal. Government entities are not required to post bond, but they are required by law to meet the performance standards in their Mined Land Reclamation Contract.</p>

**IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION**

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>N - Health and safety: The site is in a remote area. The project should not increase health and safety risks in the area if the operator and landowner manage the site in a responsible manner.</p> <p>The operator is required to comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations.</p>
<p>12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>N - Industrial, commercial, or agricultural activities in the area will not be significantly affected by the project.</p>
<p>13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move, or eliminate jobs?</p>	<p>N - The quantity or distribution of employment in the area will not be significantly affected by the project.</p>
<p>14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>N - Local and state tax revenues have not been significantly affected by similar operations in the state.</p>

