

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

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**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

Issued For: Polson Ready Mix Concrete, Inc.
57093 Highway 93
Polson, MT 59860

Air Quality Permit Number: 3014-00

Preliminary Determination on Permit Issued: 05/29/98

Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Compliance: An environmental assessment required by the MEPA, was completed for this project as follows.

Legal Description of Site: Section 14, Township 22N, Range 20W, Lake County, Montana.

Description of Project: This permit is for a 1951 Austin Westin Jaw Crusher, 1998 Svedala H-4000 Cone Crusher (maximum production 400 tons per hour), 1998 Cedar Rapids Dual Screening plant and associated equipment.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: This plant crushes sand and gravel for use in industry.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider: No reasonable alternatives available.

A listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency: A list of enforceable conditions, including a BACT analysis, are contained in permit #3014-00.

Description and analysis of regulatory impacts on private property rights: The department has considered alternatives to the conditions imposed in this permit as part of the permit development. The department has determined that the permit conditions are reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with applicable requirements and demonstrate compliance with those requirements and do not unduly restrict private property rights.

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Attached
1	Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats			X			1, 2
2	Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution			X			1, 6
3	Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture			X			1, 5
4	Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality			X			1, 5
5	Aesthetics			X			1, 7
6	Air Quality			X			1, 3, 4
7	Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resource			X			1, 2
8	Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy			X			1, 6
9	Historical and Archaeological Sites			X			1, 8
10	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			9

1. This facility will cause minor impacts.
2. Terrestrial Life and Habitats may be affected by this operation, but only for short periods of time as the facility is portable and does not stay at any site for long periods of time. Aquatic Life and Habitats are usually not located in close proximity to operations of this type.
3. The department must be notified if there is a change in size of operation or equipment that results in an increase in emissions.
4. Air quality impacts from the operation are minor. This permit includes conditions limiting the opacity from the plant as well as requiring water spray bars to control air pollution.
5. Soils will be disturbed during operations since this is a mining operation, however, the impact will be minimal.
6. Water will be used as pollution control but will only cause minor disturbance to the area. The operation will only demand small quantities of water, air and energy for proper operation.
7. The operation will be visible and will create additional noise in the area. However, impacts will be minor because operations are temporary and only uses small portions of land.
8. If greater than 10,000 cubic yards are mined, the site must hold an Open Cut Mining Contract and historical and archaeological investigations are performed before contract issuance. If artifacts are found during the course of mining, operations will be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made. The State Historic Preservation Office will be promptly notified.
9. There is potential for any portable operations to locate at various sites throughout Montana. However, any such operation would have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits/contracts from the DEQ prior to operation. These permits/contracts will address the environmental impacts associated with such operations at any site. Overall, the operations will have only minor impacts on the area. All sites are limited to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant and any associated equipment. There may be minor impacts created by traffic on haul roads, however, the authorizing agent of the road is required to take reasonable precautions to reduce fugitive emissions.

Potential Impact on Human Environment

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Attached
1	Social Structures and Mores				X		1
2	Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				X		1
3	Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			X			2
4	Agricultural or Industrial Production				X		3
5	Human Health			X			4
6	Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities			X			5
7	Quantity and Distribution of Employment			X			2
8	Distribution of Population				X		1
9	Demands for Government Services			X			6
10	Industrial and Commercial Activity			X			3
11	Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals			X			7
12	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			8

1. There will be no disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities from this operation. The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area will not be impacted by this operation. No additional or less housing will be required due to this operation.
2. The operations will have little, if any, affects to the local and state tax base and tax revenue.
3. This operation will not create any agricultural production. This operation will have minor impacts on local industrial production because it is small by industry standards and does not stay at any one site for long periods of time. Permitting of this facility will not increase the number of employees need to operate this facility.
4. This permit incorporates conditions to ensure that the operations will be operated in compliance with all applicable rules and standards. These conditions are designed to be protective of human health.
5. The operations will not affect any access to recreational and wilderness activities. However, minor affects to the quality of recreational and wilderness activities will be created by the aesthetics and noise from the site.
6. Since this facility already exists, there should not be any increases in traffic on existing roads in the area while the operations are in progress. The only other government services demanded for this project will be acquiring the appropriate permits from government agencies and occasional agency personnel visits.
7. There will be no affect to the locally adopted environmental plans and goals because this plant will operate at sites where current zoning does not exclude this type of mining activity.
8. There is potential for portable operations to locate at this site. However, any such operation would have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits/contracts from the DEQ, prior to operation. These permits/contracts will address the environmental impacts associated with such operations at this or any other site. Overall, the operations will have only minor impacts on the area because they affect only a small amount of property for a short amount of time. All sites are limited to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant and any associated equipment. There may be minor impacts created by traffic on haul roads, however, the authorizing agent of the road is required to take reasonable precautions to reduce fugitive emissions.

Recommendation: No EIS is required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: This plant is small by industry standards and there will be no significant impacts. In addition, the controls contained in permit #3014-00 will further limit the emissions.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: Department of Environmental Quality, Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau. Montana Natural Heritage Program.

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting and Compliance Division.

EA prepared by: Lana Hedlund

Date: May 26, 1998