

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

Issued For: Luzenac America Inc.
Yellowstone Mine
P.O. Box 130
Cameron, MT 59720

RECEIVED

JUN 05 1998

**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

Permit Number: 1648-06

Preliminary Determination on Permit Issued: 5/18/98

Department Decision on Permit Issued: 6/3/98

Final Permit Issued:

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

Legal Description of Site: The facility is located in Section 4 & 9, Township 9S, Range 1W, Madison County.

Description of Project: The permit application is for the addition of material handling equipment and power generation equipment associated with the crushing of oversized stockpiled material.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: The proposed system will allow Luzenac America to handle stockpiled material.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider: None available.

A listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency: A listing of the enforceable permit conditions and a permit analysis, including a Best Available Control Technology analysis, is contained in permit #1648-06.

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 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 Included
1	Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats			X			yes
2	Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution				X		yes
3	Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture				X		yes
4	Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality			X			yes
5	Aesthetics			X			yes
6	Air Quality			X			yes
7	Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resource			X			yes
8	Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy			X			yes
9	Historical and Archaeological Sites				X		yes
10	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			yes

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

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats

This permitting action will result in an increase in emissions at the facility. Minor impacts to the habitats of fish and wildlife may occur. Habitat impacts could result in a change in the diversity or abundance of terrestrial or aquatic life.

2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

The actions addressed in this permit will not result in a change in the amount or characteristics of surface water discharged or the alteration of the course or magnitude of any drainage system. This action does not result in a change in the quality or quantity of ground water. Therefore, no impact to water quality, quantity and distribution is anticipated.

3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

The actions addressed will not change the soil stability or geologic substructure or result in any increased disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, or moisture loss which would reduce productivity or fertility at or near the site. No unique geologic or physical features will be disturbed. Therefore, no impacts to geology and soil quality, stability and moisture are anticipated.

4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

The increase in regulated pollutants may result in minor impacts to the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species.

5. Aesthetics

The proposed system in the permit application will result in new equipment. However, the additional equipment is not anticipated to alter any scenic vista or create an aesthetically offensive site or effect.

6. Air Quality

The allowable emissions from the facility are permitted to increase; therefore, minor impacts from greater regulated pollutants, as a result of this permit, are possible.

7. Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources

This permitting action may result in minor impacts to terrestrial and aquatic life and/or their habitat; therefore, it is possible that unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species may experience minor impacts.

8. Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy

The department does not anticipate that this permitting action will impose impacts to water or energy resources. Minor demands on air resources are possible because the facility's emissions will be increasing.

9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

This permitting action does not include any facility action that would result in disturbing greater land surface. Therefore, no impacts to any historical and archaeological sites are anticipated.

10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Minor cumulative and secondary impacts as a result of the allowable emissions increases in addition to the facilities current emissions are possible. Minor cumulative and secondary impacts to terrestrial and aquatic habitats and air quality are possible

Potential Impact on Human Environment

- 1. Social Structures and Mores**
- 2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity**
- 8. Distribution of Population**

The location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population nor the cultural uniqueness or diversity of the community surrounding the facility should not be altered. The fundamental moral views of a social group are not anticipated to be altered as a result of this permitting action.

- 3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue**
- 9. Demands of Government Services**

The changes to Luzenac America, Inc.'s air quality permit will not result in a need for new or altered governmental services nor effect local or state tax bases or revenues.

- 4. Agricultural or Industrial Production**
- 10. Industrial and Commercial Activity**

The changes permitted in #1648-06 will not result in a reduction of available acreage or productivity of any agricultural land; therefore, agricultural production should not be affected. Industrial production and commercial activity at the facility or in the neighboring area are not anticipated to be altered by this permit.

5. Human Health

The two primary vehicles for impact upon human health are water and air. Since there will be no change in the amount or characteristics of surface water discharged or the quality or quantity of ground water, human health impacts from water are not anticipated. The allowable increase in PM-10 emissions may result in an increase in airborne particulate matter in the area. Therefore, minor human health impacts from air quality are possible.

6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The actions permitted will not alter any existing access to and quality of any recreational or wilderness area.

7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

The actions permitted in permit #1648-06 are not anticipated to result in any impacts to the quantity and distribution of employment at the facility or surrounding community.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

Permit #1648-06 should not affect any locally adopted environmental plans or goals because it does not result in any significant increase in emissions.

12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The two primary vehicles for impact upon human health are water and air. Since there are possibly minor air quality impacts from Luzenac America, cumulative human health impacts are possible from the facility.

Recommendation: An EIS is not required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: The source is applying the Best Available Control Technology; the analyses indicates compliance with all applicable air quality rules and regulations.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: None

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Department of Environmental Quality - Air and Waste Management Bureau.

EA prepared by: Denise A. Kirkpatrick

Date: May 12, 1998