

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PERMITTING AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Air and Waste Management Bureau



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JUN 15 1998

**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

June 12, 1998

Larry Arthur
ARG Sand and Gravel, Inc.
P.O. Box 96
Choteau, Montana 59422

Dear Mr. Arthur:

Air Quality Permit #3009-00 is deemed final as of June 12, 1998 by the Department of Environmental Quality. This permit is for a portable crusher and associated equipment. All conditions of the department's decision remain the same. Enclosed is a copy of your permit with the final date indicated.

For the department,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Knatterud".

Richard Knatterud
Air Permitting Section Supervisor

RK:bjd

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 444-3490

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued For: ARG Sand and Gravel Inc
PO Box 96
Choteau, MT 59422

Air Quality Permit Number: 3009-00

Preliminary Determination on Permit Issued: 05/11/98
Department Decision on Permit Issued: 05/27/98
Final Permit Issued: 06/12/98

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

Legal Description of Site: Various locations throughout Montana, original location of Northwest ¼, Northwest ¼, Section 20, Township 21 North, Range 1 West, Cascade County, Montana.

Description of Project: This permit is for a 1948 Pioneer crusher (maximum production 180 TPH) 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 #3009-00.

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

1. This facility will cause minor impacts. The operation is portable, operates on small portions of land, and does not stay in one location for long periods of time.
2. The department must be notified if there is a change in size of operation or equipment that results in an increase in emissions.
3. 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 as necessary to control air pollution. Also, all sites are limited to a total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant, including any additional equipment at any individual site.
4. 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.
5. The crusher operations will be visible and will create additional noise in the area.
6. Historical and archaeological sites may be present at the locations where operations will be performed. When no state or federal funding is involved, privately owned property is exempt from filing the site with the Montana Historical Preservation Society. 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.
7. There is potential for other portable operations to locate at these sites. 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.

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. This operation is not a permanent, stationary operation at any one site. Activities associated with this type of operation usually do not greatly affect the quality and distribution of employment in the area. Employees of the company travel with the equipment to various sites, however, local workers may be hired for short-term employment.
3. Operations will not create any agricultural production. This operation is very small by industrial standards and will therefore have only a minor impact on local industrial production. More than likely, the activities will only employ people from the company. It is possible that company employees may stay in the area during the short-term project. The operations represent only a minor increase in the industrial activity in the area. No additional industrial or commercial activity is expected as a result of the operations.
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. In addition, any impacts will be temporary because the operation is portable and does not stay at any site for long periods of time.
6. Minor increases may be seen 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.
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 other 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 a portable source and there will be no significant impacts. In addition, the controls contained in permit #3009-00 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.
Historical Preservation, Montana Historical Society.**

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

**EA prepared by: Lana Hedlund
Date: 05/07/98**