

Department of Environmental Quality
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ISSUED TO: Pyramid Mountain Lumber Company

PERMIT NUMBER: 2965-00

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION ON PERMIT ISSUED: 06/15/98

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) COMPLIANCE: An environmental assessment, required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act, was completed for this project as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF SITE: Southeast ¼, Section 3, Township 16N, Range 15 W, Missoula County, Montana.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Pyramid has been permitted by Missoula County since 6/5/85. During the review of the facility's emission inventory it was determined that Pyramid is a Title V source and a preconstruction permit with the DEQ is required. The current permit action is to transfer the Missoula County permitting authority to the State. Permit #2965-00 replaces the Missoula County permit.

BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL: Permit #2965-00 will allow Pyramid to continue operations in compliance with rules and regulations.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES WHENEVER ALTERNATIVES ARE REASONABLY AVAILABLE AND PRUDENT TO CONSIDER: No reasonable alternatives are available.

A LISTING AND APPROPRIATE EVALUATION OF MITIGATION, STIPULATIONS AND OTHER CONTROLS ENFORCEABLE BY THE AGENCY OR ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY: A list of enforceable permit conditions, including a Best Available Control Technology (BACT), are contained in Air Quality Permit #2695-00.

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 to demonstrate compliance with those requirements and do not unduly restrict private property rights.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

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

Potential Impact on Human Environment

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

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL IMPACTS: The following comments have been prepared by the Department.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

None of the above mentioned potential impacts on physical environment will be affected by the current permit action of changing the permitting authority from Missoula County to the State of Montana. Pyramid is an existing facility and emissions, activities or operations will not increase or decrease as a result of this action.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Social Structures and Mores
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity
3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue
4. Agricultural or Industrial Production
5. Human Health
6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment
8. Distribution of Population
10. Industrial and Commercial Activity
11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals
12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

None of the above mentioned potential impacts on physical environment will be affected by the current permit action of changing the permitting authority from Missoula County to the State of Montana. Pyramid is an existing facility and emissions, activities or operations will not increase or decrease as a result of this action.

9. Demands of Government Services

There will be a minor increase in demands on government services and the department will now be involved in permitting and compliance issues for this source.

RECOMMENDATION: An EIS is not required.

IF AN EIS IS NOT REQUIRED, EXPLAIN WHY THE EA IS AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ANALYSIS:
This permitting action will not increase emissions from the facility but will only incorporate the existing source into a state authorized preconstruction permit.

OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION: None.

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EA: Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting and Compliance Division, Air and Waste Management Bureau.

EA PREPARED BY: Lana Hedlund

DATE: 05/28/98