

# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 444-2544

PO BOX 200901  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0901

June 9, 1998

**RECEIVED**

**JUN 24 1998**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has prepared the following Environmental Assessment as required by law in ARM 16.2.626(2) and ARM 16.2.628(2). This project involves removal of two underground storage tanks and the installation of two underground storage tanks at White Sulphur Springs Schools at 209 Central Avenue South.

The DEQ prepares Environmental Assessments to inform interested government agencies, public groups, or individuals of a proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human or natural environment. This Environmental Assessment will be circulated for seven (7) days. After the seven-day comment period, DEQ will decide what action to take regarding this permit.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please write or call the Remediation Division by June 17, 1998. Our telephone number is 406-444-5970 and our mailing address is P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT, 59620-0901.

Sincerely,

*Susan McAnally*

Susan McAnally  
Solid & Hazardous Waste Specialist

cc: Environmental Assessment

O/O NAME: School District #8	FACILITY NO: 30-04720
PERMIT NO: 98-0721	DATE OF APPLICATION: 5/22/98
PERSON PREPARING EA: Susan McAnally, S&HW Spec.	COUNTY: Meagher
LOCATION: White Sulphur Springs Schools	209 Central Ave. South
FACILITY NAME: School District #8	EA COMPLETED: 6/10/98
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is removal of existing USTs and installation of new USTs.	
DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The purpose of the proposed action is to upgrade underground storage tank systems to meet December 22, 1998 upgrade requirements.	

- A: Significant Unavoidable Impacts  
 B: Insignificant as a result of conditioned mitigation  
 C: Insignificant as proposed

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u> : Are there unusual geologic features? Will the surface features be changed?			x			No significant impacts. The existing underground storage tanks are in the same area where new ones will be installed.
2. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE</u> : Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there special reclamation considerations?			x			No significant impacts.
3. <u>WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION</u> : Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?			x	x		Ground water is at 20' below ground surface. Tank leak detection (automatic tank gauge) & pipe leak detection (continuous interstitial monitoring) should provide early warning of releases. 20' BGS should not contribute to float out.

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
4. <u>AIR QUALITY</u> : Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?			x			Hydrocarbon vapors are released when petroleum is put in underground tanks. Natural air currents and vent pipes from the underground tanks should dissipate and dilute these vapors to a safe level. No significant impact.
5. <u>DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY</u> : Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?			x			No significant impact.
6. <u>IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</u> : Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?			x			None known.
7. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS</u> : Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?			x			Minimal wildlife, birds, or fish on or around this facility. No significant impact.
8. <u>VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY</u> : Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?			x			No significant impact. Facility is and will be primarily concrete, asphalt, or compacted road mix.

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
<p>9. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</u> Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Any species of special concern?</p>			x			None known. No significant impact.
<p>10. <u>HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE:</u> Are any historical, archeological or paleontological resources present?</p>			x			None known. No significant impact.
<p>11. <u>AESTHETICS:</u> Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise, light or odors?</p>			x			School is visible from the roadway and adjoining properties. Noise, light, and odors should be minimal since delivery of fuel will be the only disturbance.
<p>12. <u>AGRICULTURE:</u> Will grazing lands, irrigation waters or crop production be affected?</p>			x			No significant impact. Area is currently developed.
<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>						
<p>1. <u>SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:</u> Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>			x			None known. No significant impact.
<p>2. <u>CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:</u> Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>			x			None expected. No significant impact.
<p>3. <u>DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:</u> Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>			x			None expected. No significant impact.

June 9, 1998

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
4. <u>HUMAN HEALTH &amp; SAFETY:</u> Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?			x			Hydrocarbon vapors are flammable. Natural air currents and tank vents should dilute and dissipate these vapors to a safe level below the lower explosive range. Also, releases could contaminate soils or groundwater. The leak detection equipment should detect a leak before serious environmental damage occurs.
5. <u>COMMUNITY &amp; PERSONAL INCOME:</u> Will the facility generate or degrade income?			x			No significant impact.
6. <u>QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:</u> Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimate number.			x			No significant impact.
7. <u>LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE REVENUES:</u> Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?			x			None known.
8. <u>DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:</u> Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?			x			No significant impact.
9. <u>INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:</u> Will the project add to or alter these activities?			x			No significant impacts. Area is currently developed.

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
<b>10. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:</b> Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?			x			Recreational or wilderness areas are not accessed through this property.
<b>11. AESTHETICS:</b> Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise, light or odors?			x			No significant impact.
<b>12. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:</b> Are there state, county, city, USFS, BLM, tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?			x			None known.
<b>13. TRANSPORTATION:</b> Will the project affect local transportation networks and traffic flows?			x			No significant impact.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** No public involvement.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** Double wall USTs provide greater environmental protection; however, they are more expensive.

**COMPLIANCE STATUS:** This project, as permitted, will be in compliance with the UST regulations. The facility must, however, be operated and maintained in accordance with the UST rules and regulations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PREPARATION OF AN EIS:** Not necessary at this level of disturbance.

**OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION:**  
 Local fire officials.

Page 7

June 9, 1998

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EA: UST installer (permit application and Environmental Assessment Questionnaire) and personal knowledge of the area.

cc: Director  
Division Administrator  
Governor's Office  
✓ LEPO