

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 444-2544

RECEIVED  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0901  
PO BOX 200901

JUL 17 1998

ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL

July 6, 1998

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 removing two underground fuel tanks and installing two single-wall STIP3 underground fuel tanks at First Ave South and Pratten Street in Columbus, MT.

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 July 14, 1998. Our telephone number is 406-444-1420 and our mailing address is P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT, 59620-0901.

Sincerely,

Jeff Tobin  
Environmental Engineer Specialist

cc: Environmental Assessment

O/O NAME: Farmers Union Trading Co.	FACILITY NO: 48-03409
PERMIT NO: 98-0827	DATE OF APPLICATION: 7/1/98
PERSON PREPARING EA: Jeff Tobin, Env. Eng. Spec.	COUNTY: Stillwater
LOCATION: First Ave south and Pratten Street	Columbus
FACILITY NAME: Farmer's Union Trading Co.	EA COMPLETED: 7/6/98
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Remove two underground fuel tanks and install two single-wall STIP3 underground fuel tanks with single-wall fiberglass piping.	
DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: Replace tanks with holes and comply with 1998 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. Location is currently a gasoline and convenience store in a developed area.
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.

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
<p>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?</p>			x			Groundwater 8'-10' below surface. Tank anchoring by burial depth. Inventory control with 5 year tank tightness test and mechanical line leak detectors with annual line tightness test leak detection is the least accurate. within 10 years of installation a monthly monitoring method must replace the inventory control.
<p>4. <u>AIR QUALITY:</u> Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>			x			Natural air currents and vent pipes will dissipate hydrocarbon vapors to a safe level. No significant impact.
<p>5. <u>DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:</u> Will the project use limited resources or effect other nearby activities?</p>			x			No significant impact.
<p>6. <u>IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</u>            Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>			x			None known.
<p>7. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:</u> Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>			x			Minimal wildlife, birds, or fish on or around this facility. No significant impact.
<p>8. <u>VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</u>            Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>			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
<b>9. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</u></b> Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Any species of special concern?			x			None known. No significant impact.
<b>10. <u>HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE:</u></b> Are any historical, archeological or paleontological resources present?			x			None known. No significant impact.
<b>11. <u>AESTHETICS:</u></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			Business is visible from the roadway and adjoining properties. Noise, light, and odors will be typical for a medium sized convenience store with fuel sales.
<b>12. <u>AGRICULTURE:</u></b> Will grazing lands, irrigation waters or crop production be affected?			x			No significant impact. Area is currently developed.
<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>						
<b>1. <u>SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:</u></b> Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?			x			None known. No significant impact.
<b>2. <u>CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:</u></b> Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?			x			None expected. No significant impact.
<b>3. <u>DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:</u></b> Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?			x			None expected. No significant impact.

July 6, 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			No change from existing.
5. <u>COMMUNITY &amp; PERSONAL INCOME:</u> Will the facility generate or degrade income?			x			Improvement to the facility should increase volume and income.
6. <u>QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:</u> Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimate number.			x			No change from existing.
7. <u>LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE REVENUES:</u> Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?			x			Minimal change from existing.
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			Minimal change from existing. 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.
10. <u>ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:</u> Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract?			x			Recreational or wilderness areas are not accessed through this property.
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?			x			Business is visible from the roadway and adjoining properties. Noise, light, and odors will be typical for a medium sized convenience store with fuel sales.

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
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12. <u>LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:</u> Are there state, county, city, USFS, BLM, tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?			x			Local officials have not expressed any concern over this project.
13. <u>TRANSPORTATION:</u> Will the project affect local traffic patterns?			x			No significant impact.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** The only public involvement I am aware of is this environmental assessment

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** Reduced fuel sales, double-wall tanks and piping, and monthly monitoring at time of install. Double-wall tanks and piping, and monthly monitoring provide better environmental protection, however, cost more. More accurate monthly tank monitoring must be in place within 10 years of install

**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:** Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau regulates above ground components.

**INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EA:** The tank contractor, personal knowledge of the area, local zoning officials, and the facility owner.

cc: Director  
 Division Administrator  
 Governor's Office  
 ✓ Legislative Environmental Policy Office