

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

Issued For: Ravalli County Road Department  
244 Fairgrounds Road  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Air Quality Permit Number: 3011-00

Preliminary Determination Issued: 07/17/98

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

Legal Description of Site: NW¼ NW¼ of Section 29, Township 6 North, Range 20 West, Ravalli County, Montana.

Description of Project: This permit is for the operation of a dozer trap with feeder, a primary screen, a portable 1956 Cedarapids jaw crusher, and a portable 1985 EL-JAY cone crusher and screen.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: This proposal is necessary for the Ravalli County Road Department to continue performing road and maintenance duties. This proposal will allow Ravalli to continue crushing and screening material.

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 best available control technology analysis, is contained in permit #3011-00.

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.

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Potential Impact on Physical Environment

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

Potential Impact on Human Environment

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

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

Terrestrials will use the areas in which the crusher operations occur. However, the crusher operations alone will present only minor affects to the terrestrial life. In addition, the crusher operations are portable and the affects will be limited by short term projects that are generally divided among four pits.

2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

Water will be used as pollution control but will only cause a minor disturbance to the area. No surface water or ground water quality problems are expected as a result of using water for pollution control. Any accidental spills or leaks from equipment will be handled as required by any open cut mining contract.

3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

The soils will be impacted by the crusher operations. The impacts will be minor due to the size of the operation, and requirements that are incorporated in the open cut mining contract for reclamation procedures.

4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

The quality and quantity of vegetation cover will be affected by the crusher operations. Since the sites are pre-existing pits, the affects of the projects will be less noticeable. The vegetation can be re-established following the mining operations in the area as required in the open cut mining contract.

5. Aesthetics

The crusher operations will be visible and will create additional noise in the area. Permit #3011-00 includes conditions to control emissions (including visible emissions) from the plant. Since the crusher operations are small, any noise impacts will be minimal.

6. Air Quality

The air quality impacts from the crusher operations are minor. Permit #3011-00 includes conditions limiting the opacity from the plant, as well as requiring water spray bars to control air pollution. The crusher operations are limited by permit #3011-00 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant in addition to any additional equipment at any individual site. Furthermore, the crusher facility production has been limited to 1,560 tons/day on a rolling 24-hour period to protect the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

7. Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources

The affects to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources are minor because the crusher operations are portable and do not stay in one location for long periods of time. The crusher operations are performed on relatively small portions of land with regard to the surrounding area.

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

The crusher operations will only demand small quantities of water, air, and energy for proper operating. Generally, the operations are seasonal, which results in smaller demands on the environmental resources.

9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

Historical and archaeological sites may be present at the locations where the crusher operations will be performed. The crusher operations may move into sites that are pre-existing and that have been investigated for the open cut mining contract that may be issued for each individual site.

10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The crusher operations will cause a minor affect to both the physical environment and human environment. There is potential for other operations to locate at these sites. However, any operations will have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits from the department prior to operation. These permits will address the environmental impacts associated with the operations at this or any other site. The crusher operations are limited by permit #3011-00 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the crusher operations and any other additional equipment used at the site. Furthermore, the crusher operation production is limited to 1,560 tons per day on a rolling 24-hour period.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Social Structures and Mores

The crusher operation will cause no disruption to the native or traditional lifestyles or communities of the area.

2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

The crusher operation will have no impact on the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area.

3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

The crusher operations will have little, if any, affects on the local and state tax base and tax revenue. The activity will actually be supported by the taxes collected in Ravalli County.

4. Agricultural or Industrial Production

The crusher operations will not create any agricultural production. The crusher operations are small by industrial standards and will therefore have only a minor impact on local industrial production.

5. Human Health

Permit #3011-00 incorporates conditions to ensure that the crusher operations will be operated in compliance with all applicable rules and standards. These rules and standards are designed to be protective of human health.

6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The crusher 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 noise from the site. Any impacts from the site will be temporary because the crusher operations are portable and not in one location for long periods of time.

7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

The activities from the crusher operations will not greatly affect the quantity and distribution of employment in the area. The crusher operations will employ a few county employees during the crushing season.

8. Distribution of Population

The crusher operations will not require additional or less housing in the area. More than likely, the employees will be Ravalli County residents that work in the area all year anyway.

9. Demands of Government Services

Minor increases will be seen in traffic on existing roads in the area while the crusher operations are in progress. Ravalli County employees will be utilized to operate the crusher. The only other government services demanded for this project will be acquiring the appropriate permits from government agencies.

10. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The crusher 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 crusher operations.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

There are no locally adopted environmental plans or goals in place. The state standards will protect the immediate environment around the crusher site.

## 12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The crusher operations will cause a minor affect to both the physical environment and human environment. There is potential for other operations to locate at these sites. However, any operations will have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits from the department prior to operation. These permits will address the environmental impacts associated with the operations at this or any other site. The crusher operations are limited by permit #3011-00 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the crusher operations and any other additional equipment used at the site. Furthermore, the crusher operation production is limited to 1,560 tons per day on a rolling 24-hour period.

Recommendation: No EIS is required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: Since this plant is a portable source, there will be no significant impacts. The controls contained in permit #3011-00 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.

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

EA prepared by: Dan Walsh

Date: July 14, 1998