

Department of Environmental Quality  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
Air and Waste Management Bureau  
1520 E. Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, Montana 59620-0901  
(406) 444-3490 FAX (406) 444-1499

**RECEIVED**  
**AUG 14 1998**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

ISSUED TO: Bear Paw Gathering Systems, The Hole Compressor Station

PERMIT NUMBER: 3019-00

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION ON PERMIT ISSUED: 08/12/98

**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:** NW¼, SW¼. Section 10, T34N, R4W, Toole County.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** Bear Paw has applied for a permit to operate The Hole Compressor Station which includes a 1980 Waukesha F1197G 190 hp compressor engine and a 1980 AFCO Dehydrator Reboiler.

**BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL:** The Hole Compressor Station compresses field gas from 7 psi to 600 psi. Prior to entering the transmission system, the gas passes through a glycol dehydrator to remove moisture.

**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 analysis, are contained in Air Quality Permit #3019-00.

**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.

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

Potential Impact on Human Environment

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

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL IMPACTS: The following comments describe the impacts that would result from the operation of the compressor station.

#### POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats

The operation of the compressor station will produce emissions of criteria pollutants. These emissions coupled with the existence of equipment on land may have minor impacts to the habitats of fish and wildlife in the area. However, this site consists of a total property area of 0.5 acres and disturbance to the landscape will be minimal.

2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

The actions addressed in this permit will not result in a change in the amount or characteristics of surface water discharged or the alteration of the course or magnitude of any drainage system. This action does not result in a change in the quality or quantity of ground water. Therefore, no impacts to water quality, quantity and distribution is anticipated.

3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

The operation of this facility will not effect the geology or soil quality, stability or moisture.

4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

The operation of this facility will not effect the quantity or quality vegetation cover.

5. Aesthetics

The compressor buildings and pipelines will be visible, therefore the aesthetics will be changed by this facility, however, the facility is very small and any impacts will be minor.

6. Air Quality

Emission of criteria pollutants have been calculations for this facility as follows:

PM-10	0.09	tons/yr
NOx	37.13	tons/yr
CO	1.86	tons/yr
VOC	1.93	tons/yr
SOx	0.007	tons/yr

There will be minor impacts to the air quality based on these emissions, however, the emissions calculated are below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Montana Ambient Air Quality Standards which are established at levels appropriate to protect human health and the environment.

7. Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources

This permitting action is not likely to result in even minor impacts to unique endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources and/or their habitat or breeding grounds. Nesting grounds for the sensitive Ferruginous Hawks have been observed approximately 1 to 2 miles northeast of this site. The existence of this compressor station and its emissions will have only minor, if any, impacts to the nesting site of the Ferruginous Hawks.

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

There is no expected demands on water resources for this facility. There will be minor impacts to the air and energy resources.

9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

There are no previously recorded historic or archaeological sites at the station or in the vicinity. If new ground should be broken, it is recommended that a reconnaissance survey be done in order to determine whether cultural properties exist and will be impacted.

10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Minor cumulative and secondary impacts are possible; however, due to the low emission levels, this is not likely.

## POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Social Structures and Mores
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity
8. Distribution of Population

The social structures, mores, cultural uniqueness, diversity and distribution of population will not be impacted by this facility. This facility exists on only 0.5 acres and is unmanned.

3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment
9. Demands of Government Services

The department does not expect the local or state taxes or demands on government services to be impacted by this facility because Bear Paw has developed this site by closing another site and moving equipment. No additional wages or capital costs are expected.

4. Agricultural or Industrial Production
10. Industrial and Commercial Activity

There will be no impacts to agricultural production by this facility. The industrial and commercial activities associated with this facility will be minor as this industries function is to transport natural gas via pipeline.

5. Human Health

Due to the location of the facility and the proximity to population, coupled with the level of emissions which are below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Montana Ambient Air Quality Standards, the department feels the impacts to human health from this facility will be minimal.

6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

This facility will not cause any interference to access to or quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

This facility is not expected to impact any locally adopted environmental plans or goals.

12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Cumulative and secondary impacts will be minor as the permitted level of emissions takes into consideration the background levels and ensures standards, protective of human health and the environment, are being met.

RECOMMENDATION: An EIS is not required.

IF AN EIS IS NOT REQUIRED, EXPLAIN WHY THE EA IS AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ANALYSIS: This facility is not a major stationary source and any potential impacts will be minor.

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.  
State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society.  
Montana Natural Heritage Program

EA PREPARED BY: Lana Hedlund

DATE: 08/05/98