

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PERMITTING & COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Community Services Bureau
Waste Management Section

MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR



STATE OF MONTANA

Phone: (406)444-4400
Fax: (406)444-1374

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Metcalf Building
1520 E Sixth Ave
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

August 12, 1998

AUG 14 1998

ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL

Fergus County Commissioners, 712 Main, Lewistown, MT 598457-2562
Dale A. Harding, M.D. Fergus County Health Officer, 1207 2nd Street West, Roundup, MT 59072
Roger Godfery, R.S., Central Montana Health District, 506 Main, Roundup, MT 59072
Dennis Johnston, Eagle Services, P.O. Box 3508, Lewistown, MT 59457
James Wilbur, JRW Environmental Consulting, 3702 Meadowlark Drive, East Helena, MT 59635
George and Pia Berg, RR2, Box 2175, Lewistown, MT 59457
Stacey and Delores Vestal, RR2, Box 2343B, Lewistown, MT 59457
Russell Huck, RR2, Box 2345, Lewistown, MT 59457
Larry Ray, RR2, Box 2343, Lewistown, MT 59457
Richard Jergesen, RR2, Box 2342, Lewistown, MT 59457
Eddie and Lillian Kolar, RR2, Box 2341, Lewistown, MT 59457
Orville and Belinda Olson, RR2, Box 2056, Lewistown, MT 59457
Charles and Sherry DeBluff, HC 85, Box 4314, Lewistown, MT 59457
Francis Tindall, P.O. Box 959, Lewistown, MT 59457
James Romanelli (et al), 540 Broadway, Masapequa, NY 11758-5008 or P.O. Box 100, Moore, MT 59464
Roger Brown, 124 SW Maple, Lewistown, MT 59457
Charles and Sherry Welch, RR 1, Box 1764, Lewistown, MT 59457
John Munding, Resource Assessment Unit, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 E 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620
Tom Ellerhoff, Department of Environmental Quality, Helena, MT 59620
✓ Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT 59620
Documents Section, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT 59620
State Historic Preservation Office, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620

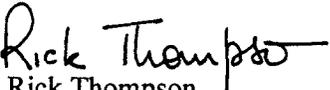
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 17.4.607(2) and 17.4.609(2), the following Environmental Assessment has been prepared by the Department of Environmental Quality concerning the proposed Lewistown Solid Waste Transfer Station located in the SW¼ of Section 17, Township 15 North, Range 18 East, M.P.M., Fergus County, Montana. Generally, the site is located approximately 0.1 mile north of the Highway 87 Bypass at #26 Brookville Lane.

The purpose of the Environmental Assessment (EA) is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups, and individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This EA will be circulated for a period of thirty (30) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so in writing, within the allotted time. Also, in order to solicit public input on the proposed action, a public meeting will be held on Thursday, August 27, 1998, at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Sincerely,


Rick Thompson
Solid Waste Licensing Program

Encl: Environmental Assessment

IALEWISTN.LTR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PERMITTING & COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Lee Metcalf Building, Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 444-4400

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Division/Program: Permitting and Compliance Division\Solid Waste Licensing Program.

Project or Application: Griffin Phoenix Inc. d.b.a. Eagle Services, a private corporation has made application for a Solid Waste Management System License to operate a Class II Transfer Station. The name of the proposed facility will be the Lewistown Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Description of Project:

Site Location: The proposed facility will be located in an existing building located at #26 Brookville Lane approximately 0.1 mile north of the US Highway 87 Bypass's intersection with US Highway 87 on the west side of Lewistown. (Figure 1. Location Map). The specific location for the building is the SW¼ of Section 17, Township 15 North, Range 18 East, M.P.M., Fergus County, Montana.

Service Area & Volumes: The proposed transfer station will serve the contracted customers for Eagle Services solid waste hauling within the Fergus, Petroleum, Musselshell, and Judith Basin Counties. Based on recent company records of volumes collected from this area, the projected annual volume for the facility will be approximately 3,200 tons. The facility will also be open to the public for solid wastes to be dropped off for transportation to a disposal site.

Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan:

General Description of Waste Management System

The anticipated schedule for the facility is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Only household and commercial municipal solid wastes will be accepted. The station person will direct persons where to dump wastes, screen the loads, and participate in loading the waste into the transfer trailer with the bobcat. A bobcat or Uniloader will be the main piece of equipment to operate within the transfer station. The transfer trailer will be a walking floor type that will be used to unload the waste pushed onto it from the transfer station floor once it arrives at the landfill.

It is anticipated that the trailer will be filled and transported to a Class II Landfill on a daily basis. However, loads may be stored over night if the trailer is not sufficiently full to be transported to the landfill. Also, the facility could store multiple day's wastes if necessary due to road closures, equipment breakdown or other emergency situations. No waste may be stored in

Lewistown Solid Waste Transfer Station Location Map

Source: Fergus County Address Project, 1998.

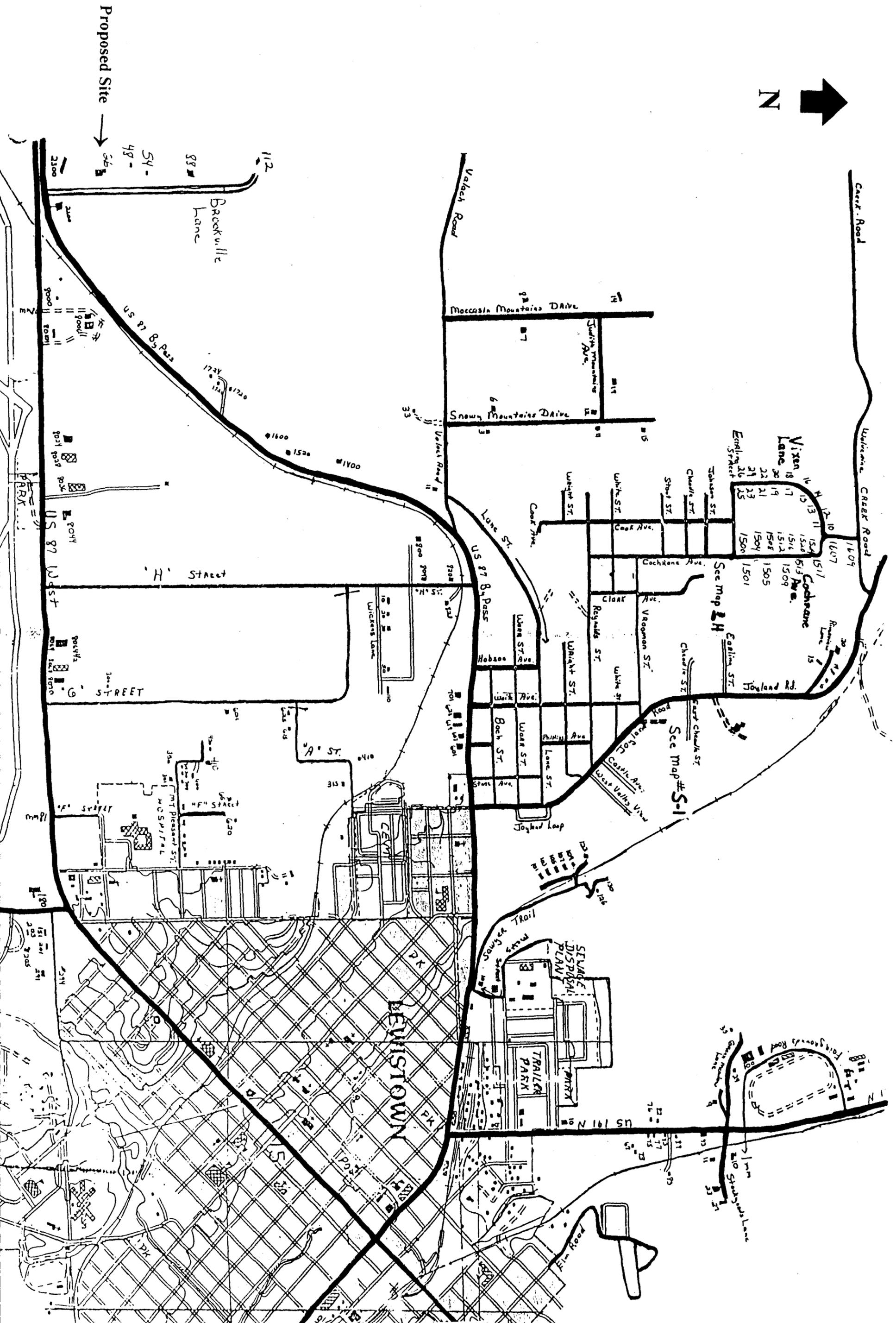


Figure 1. Location Map of Lewistown Solid Waste Transfer Station Application

excess of seven days at the facility according to solid waste rules.

The applicant has indicated that the Waste Management, High Plains Class II Landfill will be the final disposal site for waste collected at the facility, however, any licensed Class II facility will be used if economically feasible.

Eagle Services personnel will control litter on-site. Dumping will be restricted to inside of the building and the entrance area will be fenced with an 8-foot chain link fence to contain any potential wind blown litter. Insects and rodents will be controlled by various acceptable means if they become a problem at the facility. Cleaning of the waste management area will be done by dry sweeping. Also a spill kit which will include absorbent pillows or pads will be kept on-site in the event of a spill occurring. The pads will be used to contain the spilled liquids.

As stated above, the personnel at the facility will screen incoming waste loads for unacceptable wastes which include: bulk liquids, PCBs, infectious wastes, or regulated hazardous wastes. Detected hazardous wastes will be handled according to State and Federal regulations.

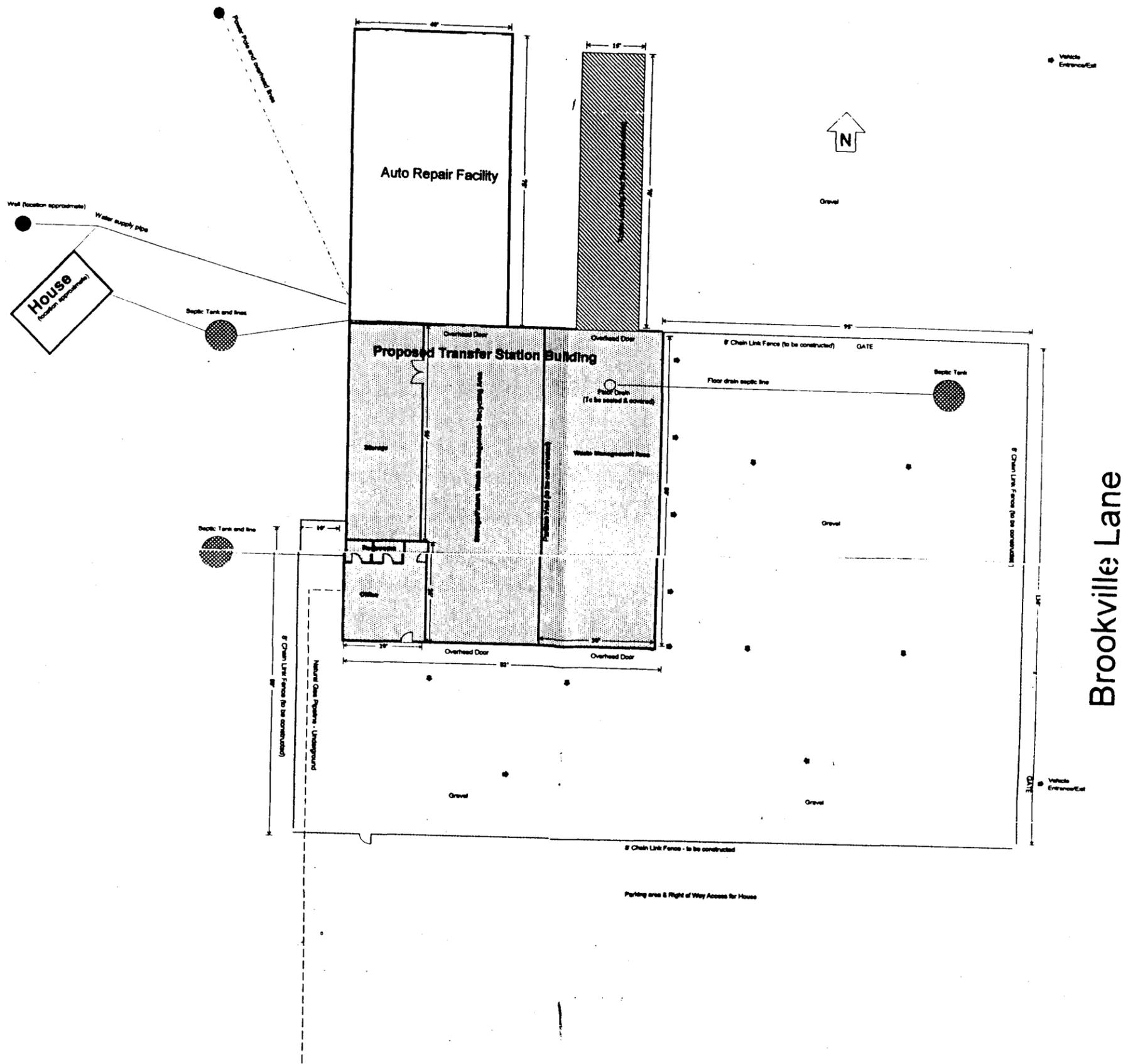
Currently, no recycling operations are planned. The applicant did indicate that cardboard recycling and the development of a blue bag recycling program may be undertaken in the future. If recycling is implemented at the facility, the recyclable materials and blue bags, will be stored in the middle storage area (Figure 2. Facility Plan) until sorted, bailed, and transported to a recycling location.

Facility Plan and Utilities

The proposed transfer station is a steel building (approximately 80' x 82') with offices, storage space and waste handling areas enclosed within the structure. (Figure 2. Facility plan). The leased portion of the site is approximately 0.6 acres in size, and that includes the building and the graveled areas adjacent to the facility with access from the north and south.

Utilities enter the building from the west side, with electrical overhead wires and natural gas and water piped in underground. The septic system for the building is between the house and the building. An existing floor drain in the working area will be plugged and covered before waste management operations begin.

The main waste handling operations will be done in the open area within the building on the east side. Offices and storage areas will be enclosed on the west side. A partition may be constructed in the middle of the building west of the main waste handling area to create another storage area in that location. However, depending on future needs, this area may also be utilized for waste handling or recycling. Concrete barriers will be placed to protect the walls of the building in the areas where wastes will be dumped and moved into the transfer trailer.



Site Plan: Lewistown Solid Waste Transfer Station For Eagle Services, Lewistown, MT

Drawn by J. Wilbur, JRW Environmental Consulting June, 1998

Note: Locations and size of House, septic tanks and utilities are not to scale and locations are approximate.

Figure 2

SCALE: _____ 50 FEET _____
Surface Water Flow Direction

Figure 2. Facility Plan (Lewistown Solid Waste Transfer Station Application)

Site Access and Control

The proposed waste management system will be operated as a private transfer station, however public access will be allowed. The office staff of two persons will be on-site throughout the weekdays and one person will be in charge of the transfer station activities when open. The operations manager and various truck drivers and mechanics will be on-site and participate in facility activities at various times.

Access to the site is via the US Highway 87 Bypass and Brookville Lane. The on-site road to and from the building will be maintained as a gravel surface by the applicant. Presently, the site is not fenced. The applicant has pledged to construct a 8 foot chain link fence prior to the commencement of operations at the facility. A lockable gate will be placed at the south entrance to facility on Brookville Lane.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal:

The proposed transfer station will serve the contracted customers for Eagle Services solid waste hauling within the Fergus, Petroleum, Musselshell, and Judith Basin Counties. The customers in the service areas named were formerly serviced by Mr. 'M' Disposal, Inc., which is now owned and operated by Eagle Services. Also, with the pending closure of the Mr. 'M' Disposal, Inc. - Lewistown Landfill, an alternative location for the final disposal of the wastes collected will be provided.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider:

1) *The applicant could submit an application for an alternative site.*

The applicant did not express to the Department if an alternative site or sites were considered prior to the selection of the current site. It is not within the jurisdiction of the Department to select potential sites for solid waste management facilities. This is a task for the applicant to complete prior to the application being made. The local county planning board or county planner has the final authority over whether or not the location of the site violates any local zoning ordinances. According to the County Planner, the site selected is not zoned.

2) *Waste collected by Eagle Services, Inc., could be taken to the Sanitation Inc., Class II Landfill for final disposal instead of to the proposed transfer station.*

This alternative was considered by the applicant and negotiations were entered into. However, a contract could not be negotiated to include a tipping fee that was suitable to Eagle Services Inc. The licensing and operation of the proposed transfer station and subsequent shipment of the wastes to the Waste Management, Inc., High Plains Landfill near Great Falls was more suitable to the applicant. The Department does not have the ability to dictate business decisions of this nature.

3) *The Montana Department of Environmental Quality may deny the license application for the facility at the current location.*

The Department may deny the license based on findings of fact which indicates that significant environmental degradation may result from the proposed facility. This alternative was examined but not acted on by the Department due to the fact that operations at the facility will be entirely inside with the exception of the hauling trucks entering and leaving the facility.

The design of the facility and the operation and maintenance plan presented should insure that the facility operates in a manner protective of the environment. The Department has the authority to revoke the license in the event that the facility is not operated in conformance with Department laws and rules.

A listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

The proposed facility must meet the minimum requirements of the Montana Solid Waste Management Act and the Administrative Rules promulgated under that Act.

Recommendation:

The recommendation of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality is to request input from the public regarding the proposal. In the absence of adverse public comment indicating environmental problems or impacts which have not been heretofore identified, the Department proposes to license the transfer station as a Class II Solid Waste Management System.

If an EIS is needed, and if appropriate, explain the reasons for preparing the EA:

No EIS is needed.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis:

The Department finds that the operation of the proposed facility will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment as the operations will take place 'under roof' in a fully enclosed building. Also, the site will not be used for the permanent disposal of solid wastes. The Environmental Assessment is therefore viewed as an adequate document to address the potential impact of the proposed operation.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

Fergus County Health Department; Fergus County Board of Planning and the Fergus County Board of County Commissioners; Airport Board, Lewistown Municipal Airport; Federal Aviation Administration.

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Lewistown Solid Waste Transfer Station Application, Dennis Johnston, June 1998; James Wilbur, JRW Environmental Consulting.

EA prepared by: Rick Thompson, Solid Waste Licensing Program.

Date: August 12, 1998

Table 1. POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Maj	Mod	Min	None	Unkn	Att
1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitat				XXX		XXX
2. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution			XXX			XXX
3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture				XXX		
4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality			XXX			XXX
5. Aesthetics			XXX			XXX
6. Air Quality			XXX			XXX
7. Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources				XXX		
8. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy				XXX		XXX
9. Historical and Archaeological Sites					XXX	XXX

*Maj = Major; Mod = Moderate; Min = Minor; Unkn = Unknown; Att = Attached

CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS: Impacts to the physical environment from the proposed facility is anticipated to minor. The operation of a completely enclosed transfer station should significantly reduce potential impacts to the environment.

Table 2. POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Maj	Mod	Min	None	Unkn	Att
1. Social Structure and Mores				XXX		
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				XXX		
3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			XXX			XXX
4. Agricultural or Industrial Production				XXX		
5. Human Health				XXX		XXX
6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities				XXX		
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment			XXX			XXX
8. Distribution of Population				XXX		
9. Demands for Government Services			XXX			XXX
10. Industrial and Commercial Activity			XXX			XXX
11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals				XXX		XXX

*Maj = Major; Mod = Moderate; Min = Minor; Unkn = Unknown; Att = Attached

CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS: The proposed transfer station is anticipated to minimally impact the human environment.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Terrestrial and aquatic life and habitats and 4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality.

The proposed transfer station is located on a relatively small piece of land on gently north easterly sloping outwash fan. The site has very little vegetation as it was graveled to accommodate past industrial activities. The area in the vicinity of the proposed facility has very little undisturbed native vegetation as a result of the past and current land use.

Currently, the proposed site and vicinity are being utilized for residences, commercial, and industrial purposes. The fauna in the area consists of an occasional deer and small mammals such as gophers and rabbits.

Potential Impacts: No effects on wildlife and corresponding habitats in the area from the proposed transfer station. This conclusion was reached based on the past and present disturbances of the site and surrounding areas. A transfer station if properly operated will do little to attract scavengers such as skunks, gulls, crows and magpies. However, if improperly operated, it may at times provide attractive habitat for these and other scavenger species. Due to the enclosed design of the proposed facility, scavenging is not anticipated to be a problem.

2. Water quality, quantity and distribution.

Ground water resources: Ground water at the site is encountered at approximately 380 to 400 feet below the ground surface where the site's water supply well was installed. Well logs for the area obtained from the Department of Natural Resources and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology databases, indicate that wells in the vicinity of the site, except when located adjacent to Buttermilk and Wolverine Creeks, are over 200 feet deep. The well located adjacent to the creeks are less than 100 feet deep.

The major surface water resource in the vicinity of the site consists of Wolverine Creek which is located approximately 1500 feet west of the site. The nearest spring to the site is approximately 3000 feet to the northeast at the head of Buttermilk Creek. According to the Fergus County Planner, the proposed transfer station is not located with-in a 100-year floodplain zone.

Potential Impacts: Impacts to the surface and ground water resources are anticipated to be minimal as the wastes collected and shipped from the facility will be protected from precipitation. Therefore no leachate will be generated that may impact surface water or ground water resources. The applicant has also committed to discontinue the use of the floor drain connected to one of the building's septic tank and drain field and to dry sweep the waste collection area instead of washing. This action will prevent the septic system from being a source of contamination to the ground water in the vicinity of the site. Truck and trailer maintenance for the operation will take place at the repair shop attached to the proposed transfer station. Fluids and water generated by those activities will be collected in the floor sump and disposed of according to standard practice.

Storm water will be generated from the graveled area surrounding the building as there is very little vegetation. However, no increase in the amount of storm water generated is anticipated by the operation of the transfer station. A minor increase in the sediment load may result from the constant use of the

entrance drive ways if the surface grading and gravel cover is not maintained especially during wet periods.

5. Aesthetics.

The building in which the proposed transfer station will operate was constructed in 1978 and used as a diesel repair facility for many years. The adjacent repair shop was constructed in 1974 and the house on the property was built in 1976. The surrounding land use consists of a mixture of residential, commercial and industrial properties.

Potential Impacts: The potential impacts to the aesthetics of the area are anticipated to be minor. A new structure will not be constructed to house the facility thereby changing the skyline of the area. Also, with the waste handling operations taking place within an entirely enclosed structure, the visual impacts common at landfills will be eliminated. Using affective litter control, the applicant proposes to significantly lessen any visual impact the facility may have on the surrounding area. State law requires that private and commercial vehicles transporting wastes must be covered. Therefore citizens of the area utilizing the facility as well as the applicant must transport wastes to and from the facility in covered vehicles. Also any blown litter will be collected on a frequent basis by facility personnel.

6. Air Quality.

The applicant has specified that open burning will not be part of the operation of the proposed transfer station. However, there is still the possibility of an accidental fire. The possibility of dust problems associated with the graveled on-site roads is a concern.

Potential Impacts: Due to fire fighting methods proposed by the applicant and that the fire would probably be contained to the facility itself, the potential appears low. The applicant will also be required to place an ash container at the facility in order to lessen the possibility of accidental fires from occurring.

Dust suppression is required at solid waste management facilities. The applicant will therefore have to formulate a plan to reduce dust emissions from the site.

8. Demands on environmental resources of water, air and energy.

The operation of any transfer station requires the consumption of energy, particularly equipment fuels, for the removal and transport of the solid waste to the permanent disposal site.

Potential Impacts: Permitted disposal at the proposed facility will have a minor impact if any on the environmental resources of Lewistown and the surrounding area.

9. Historical and archaeological sites.

At the time of the writing of the environmental assessment, a cultural resource survey was not conducted. Its is unknown if any historical and archeological sites were found or exist at the proposed site.

Potential Impacts: No impacts are anticipated to historical and archaeological resources of the area, since the building and property has been utilized for similar commercial endeavors for over 20 years. Any such resources would have been impacted over that time period.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue.

The operation of a privately owned waste management facility should have small but positive impact on the County tax base.

5. Human health and safety Issues.

The operation of a solid waste management facility has potential health and safety issues for the customers as well as the employees. These may include exposure to dust, fumes, fire and equipment accidents.

Potential Impacts: The potential impacts from the operation of a transfer station is anticipated to be minor. A well designed and operated transfer station should significantly reduce the potential for human health and safety concerns. The structure should have proper ventilation to remove fumes and dust which may accumulate in the building. To reduce accidents, children and pets of non-commercial users of the facility should remain in their vehicles. The applicant, as required by the Department, has committed to a fire prevention and a hazardous wastes screening plan to prevent the accidental disposal of hazardous or untreated infectious wastes at the facility. The applicant has also committed to reducing insects and other vermin if they do become a problem at the facility.

7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

Potential Impact: The impact on the local employment market is anticipated to minor but positive. The proposed facility will employ two (2) full time employees. One person will be in charge of the facility when open and the other will run the office.

9. Demands for governmental services.

Potential Impact: The impact for governmental services is anticipated to be minor. The proposed transfer station will require periodic inspections by Department personnel and the County Sanitarian. The solid waste management license for this facility must be renewed annually.

The impacts on government services could also be moderate under certain circumstances. These circumstances could be:

1. Fire suppression and increased road maintenance and dust suppression. A fire at the facility will require action from local city and county fire departments; and
2. Increased road repair if necessary will be a function of the local government. It was not determined at time of the writing of this EA whether or not the operation of the facility at the proposed site will cause an increase in traffic above what already exists.

10. Industrial and commercial activity.

Potential Impact: The operation of the transfer station will provide a legal option for the disposal of solid waste generated by industrial and commercial businesses in Fergus, Petroleum, Musselshell and Judith Basin Counties. The facility will therefore have a positive impact on the industrial and commercial environment of the region.

11. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

The use of this site as proposed is in accordance with local government zoning.

References

Lewistown Solid Waste Transfer Station Application; Eagle Services, June 1995.

James Wilbur, JRW Environmental Consulting; Written and Oral Communications

United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, Lewistown Quadrangle Montana - Fergus County 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)