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**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

Department of Environmental Quality
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ISSUED TO: STS Gravel

PERMIT NUMBER: 2555-01

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION ON PERMIT ISSUED: 08/07/98
DEPARTMENT DECISION ISSUED: 08/24/98

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: SW¼ of Section 9, Township 2 South, Range 10 East, Park County, Montana.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: This permit alteration is to correct improperly listed equipment and to add two crushers to the existing permitted equipment. The equipment used under permit #2555-01 is (1) 1964 Cedar Rapids 1836 Twin Jaw Crusher, Serial #25440; one (1) 1988 Nordberg 1144 Omnicone Cone Crusher, Serial #1144-128; one (1) 1946 Cedar Rapids Master Tandem Commander Crusher, Serial #9795 and associated equipment.

BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL: This plant crushes sand and gravel for use in industry.

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 2555-01.

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			1, 4
3	Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture			X			1
4	Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality			X			1
5	Aesthetics			X			1, 5
6	Air Quality			X			1, 2, 3, 4
7	Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resource			X			1
8	Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy			X			1, 4
9	Historical and Archaeological Sites			X			1, 6
10	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			7

Potential Impact on Human Environment

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

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL IMPACTS: The following comments have been prepared by the Department.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. This facility may cause minor impacts to terrestrial life and habitats, but less if any impacts to aquatic life and habitats. The operation is portable, operates on small portions of land and does not stay in one location for long periods of time.
2. The department must be notified if there is a change in size of operation or equipment that results in an increase in emissions.
3. Air quality impacts from the operation are minor. This permit includes conditions limiting the opacity from the plant, as well as requiring spray bars to control air pollution. Also, all sites are limited to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant, including any additional equipment at any individual site.
4. Water will be used as pollution control but will only cause a minor disturbance to the area. The operation will only demand small quantities of water, air and energy for proper operation.
5. There will be minor impacts, as the crusher operations will be visible and will create additional noise in the area.
6. A cultural survey of the original site was conducted previously and no cultural resources were found. If the operator of the proposed operations discovers any cultural resources, the operations must be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable amount of time until salvage can be made. The State Historic Preservation Office must be promptly notified.
7. There is potential for other portable operations to locate at these sites. However, any such operations would have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits/contracts from the DEQ prior to operations. These permits/contracts will address the environmental impacts associated with such operations at this or any other site. Overall, the operations will have only minor impacts on the area because they affect only a small amount of property for a short amount of time. All sites are limited to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant and any associated equipment. There may be minor impacts created by traffic on haul roads; however, the authorizing agent of the road is required to take reasonable precautions to reduce fugitive emissions.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1. There will be no disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities from this operation. The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area will not be impacted by this operation. No additional or less housing will be required due to this operation.
2. The operations will have little, if any, affect on the local and state tax base and tax revenue. This operation is not a permanent, stationary operation at any one site. Activities associated with this type of operation usually do not greatly affect the quality and distribution of employment in the area. Employees of the company travel with the equipment to various sites, however, local workers may be hired for short-term employment.

3. Operations will not create any agricultural production. This operation is very small by industrial standards and will, therefore, have only a minor impact on local industrial production. More than likely, the activities will only employ people from the company. It is possible that company employees may stay in the area during the short-term project. The 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 operations.
4. This permit incorporates conditions to ensure that the facility will be operated in compliance with all applicable rules and standards. These conditions are designed to be protective of human health.
5. The operations will not affect any access to recreational and wilderness activities. However, minor effects to the quality of recreational and wilderness activities will be created by the aesthetics and noise from the site. In addition, any impacts will be temporary because the operation is portable and does not stay at any site for long periods of time.
6. Minor increases may be seen in traffic on existing roads in the area while the operations are in progress. The only other government services demanded for this project will be acquiring the appropriate permits from government agencies.
7. There will be no effect to the locally adopted environmental plans and goals because this plant will operate at sites where current zoning generally does not exclude this type of mining activity.
8. There is potential for other portable operations to locate at this site. However, any such operation would have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits/contracts from DEQ, prior to operation. These permits/contracts will address the environmental impacts associated with such operations at this or any other site. Overall, the operations will have only minor impacts on the area because they affect only a small portion of property for a short amount of time. All sites are limited to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant and any associated equipment. There may be minor impacts created by traffic on haul roads, however, the authorizing agent of the road is required to take reasonable precautions to reduce fugitive emissions.

RECOMMENDATION: An EIS is not required.

IF AN EIS IS NOT REQUIRED, EXPLAIN WHY THE EA IS AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ANALYSIS: This plant is a portable source and there will be no significant impacts. In addition, the controls contained in permit #2555-01 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. Historical Preservation, Montana Historical Society.

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EA: Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting and Compliance Division.

EA PREPARED BY: Lana Hedlund
DATE: 08/03/98