

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620
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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued For: Montana Power Company.
40 East Broadway
Butte, MT 59701

RECEIVED

OCT 06 1998

Air Quality Permit Number: 2784-02

Preliminary Determination Issued: October 5, 1998

**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

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

Legal Description of Site: The Montana Power Company Dry Creek Field station is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 34, T6S, R5E, Carbon County, Montana.

Description of Project: Permit #2784-02 is for the operation of a natural gas compressor station that supplies pressure to pipelines which distribute gas. The current project involves incorporating a Smart Ash burner into the permit. The Smart Ash Burner is defined as an incinerator and requires a permit alteration for incorporation into the permit.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: The addition of the Smart Ash Burner will allow the facility to take care of the waste generated at the facility in a controlled manner. The facility location makes it difficult to store the material and haul it to disposal.

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 are contained in permit #2784-02.

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.

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

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

1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats

- Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution
- Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture
- Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality
- Aesthetics
- Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resource
- Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy
- Historical and Archaeological Sites

The addition of the Smart Ash Burner will slightly increase the facility's allowable emissions. However, no additional impacts from the burner will be seen. The burner is a control device that will control the emissions generated from the burning of oil rags, etc. in a enclosed container (55 gallon drum).

2. Air Quality

- Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The emissions generated from the Smart Ash Burner will slightly increase the allowable emissions from the facility and cause minor affects on air quality, and the cumulative and secondary impacts will be negligible. The burner is a control device the will control the emissions generated from the burning of oily rags, etc. The Smart Ash Burner has been proven to constitute a negligible risk to public health, safety, welfare, and to the environment. Permit 2784-02 contains limitations and conditions placed on the burner to limit the material that may be burned.

Potential Impact on Human Environment

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

1. Social Structures and Mores
 Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity
 Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue
 Agricultural or Industrial Production
 Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities
 Quantity and Distribution of Employment
 Distribution of Population
 Demands for Government Services
 Industrial and Commercial Activity
 Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

The addition of the Smart Ash Burner will slightly increase the facility's allowable emissions. However, no additional impacts from the burner will be seen on the above listed categories. The burner is a control device that will control the emissions generated from the burning of oil rags, etc. in a enclosed container (55 gallon drum).

2. Human Health
 Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The emissions generated from the Smart Ash Burner will slightly increase the allowable emissions from the facility and cause minor affects on air quality and the cumulative and secondary impacts will be negligible. The burner is a control device the will control the emissions generated from the burning of oily rags, etc. The Smart Ash Burner has been proven to constitute a negligible risk to public health, safety, welfare, and to the environment. Permit 2784-02 contains limitations and conditions placed on the burner to limit the material that may be burned.

Recommendation: No EIS is required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: The limitations in Permit #2784-02 will restrict emissions from the sources at the facility.

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, Air and Waste Management.

EA prepared by: Vickie Walsh

Date: October 2, 1998