

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PERMITTING & COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Community Services Bureau

Waste Management Section

MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR



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ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL

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

October 6, 1998

Garfield County Commissioners, 712 Main, Lewistown, MT 59457-2562
Dan Muniak, P.A., Garfield County Health Officer, P.O. Box 389, Jordan, MT 59337
Mary Ann Engdahl, Mayor, Town of Jordan, P.O. Box 484, Jordan, MT 59337
Phillip Murnion, Jordan, MT 59337
Paul Sihler, Administrative Officer, Director's Office, 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 Jordan Class IV solid waste landfill located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, Township 18 North, Range 37 East, M.P.M., Garfield County, Montana. Generally, the site is located approximately 2 miles northwest of the Town of Jordan.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Thompson".

Rick Thompson
Solid Waste Licensing Program

Encl: Environmental Assessment

JORDAN.LTR

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CHECK LIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1. **Name of proposed facility:** Town of Jordan Class IV Landfill and Burn Site.
Name of applicant: Town of Jordan
Address of applicant: P.O. Box 484, Jordan, MT 59337
2. **This application is for a:** (X) solid waste landfill, () transfer station, () resource recovery or processing facility, () other (please specify) Conversion of the existing Class III landfill to a Class IV and burn site.
3. **a) Legal description of proposed location:** NE¼ SE¼ of Section 12, Township 18 North, Range 37 East, M.P.M. Garfield County, Montana.
b) General description of facility location: The facility is located approximately two (2) miles northwest of the Town of Jordan.
4. **If the property is not owned by the applicant, give name and address of lessor who holds title to the property:**
Name: Mr. Philip Murnion
Address: Jordan, MT 59337
5. **Total acreage of proposed site:** Five (5) acres.
Acreage useable for the solid waste system: Four (4) acres, with approximately one (1) acre to be used for a burn site.
6. **Population to be served by solid waste system:** The Town of Jordan and surrounding area.
Tonnage to be accepted per year: Approximately 500 to 600 tons per year.

7. **Description of the purpose and benefits of the proposed action:**
 - a) The application submitted by the Town of Jordan is for the conversion of the existing Class III landfill which is limited to accepting Group III (inert) wastes, to a Class IV landfill and burn site. Class IV facilities can accept Group IV (construction and demolition wastes and asphalt), as well as Group III wastes.
 - b) The primary benefit of the proposed facility is the cost savings that may be imparted to the citizens of Jordan. By siting and operating a facility to dispose of bulky Group III and IV wastes, the Town of Jordan anticipates a reduction in hauling costs for wastes being hauled to the Custer County-Miles City Class II Landfill.
8. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider:**
 - a) *Alternative 1. Action:* License the facility as proposed.
 - b) *Alternative 2. No action:* Deny the application.
 - c) *Alternative 3.* The Department could require the applicant to select an alternative site if the proposed site is deemed unsuitable.
 - d) *Alternative 4.* Require additional monitoring or design changes.
9. **A list 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.
10. **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 site as a Class IV Solid Waste Management System.
11. **If an EIS is needed, and if appropriate, explain the reasons for preparing the EA:**

No EIS is needed.
12. **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. Due to the past use of the facility as a Class II and later a Class III landfill without significant impacts to the environment, the Environmental Assessment is an adequate document to address the potential impacts of the proposed operation.
13. **Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:**

Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Air and Waste Management Bureau.

14. **Individuals or groups contributing to this EA:**
Jordan Class IV Landfill Application, Damschen and Associates, November 1997, Jordan
Class III Landfill, DEQ File.

EA prepared by: Rick Thompson

Date: September 29, 1998

IMPACTS

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	Major	Moderate	Minor	No	Unknown	Attached
1. TOPOGRAPHY: Are there unusual geologic features?				XX		XXX
Will the surface features be changed?			XXX			XXX
2. GEOLOGY & SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY & MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present?				XX		
Are there special reclamation considerations?				XX		
3. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY & DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or ground water resources present?				XX		XXX
Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?				XX		XXX
4. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced?			XXX			XXX
Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?			XXX			XXX
5. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OR LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area?			XXX			XXX
Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?				XX		
6. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?				XX		
7. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?				XX		
8. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY & QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered?			XXX			XXX
Are any rare plants or cover types present?				XX		
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present?					XXX	
Any wetlands?				XX		
Any species of special concern?					XXX	
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?					XXX	XXX
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature?				XX		
Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas?				XX		
Will there be excessive noise, light or odors?				XX		
12. AGRICULTURE: Will grazing lands, irrigation waters or crop production be affected?				XX		

IMPACTS

<u>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</u>	Major	Moderate	Minor	No	Unknown	Attached
1. SOCIAL STRUCTURES & MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?				XX		
2. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS & DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?				XX		
3. DENSITY & DISTRIBUTION OR POPULATION & HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?				XX		
4. HUMAN HEALTH & SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?			XXX			XXX
5. COMMUNITY & PERSONAL INCOME: Will the facility generate or degrade income?				XX		
6. QUANTITY & DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs?				XX		
If so, estimate number.						
7. LOCAL & STATE TAX BASE REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?			XXX			XXX
8. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads?				XX		
Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?			XXX			XXX
9. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES & PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?				XX		
10. ACCESS TO & QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL & WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract?				XX		
Is there recreational potential within the tract?				XX		
11. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS & GOALS: Are there state, county, city, USFS, BLM, tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?				XX		
12. TRANSPORTATION: Will the project affect local transportation networks and traffic flows?				XX		

Evaluating The Potential Impact of the Proposed Solid Waste Management System on the Environment

The following is a detailed explanation concerning the previous page's comments on the potential impact of the proposed license modification on the environment (see, Tables 1 and 2). In other words, those categories marked "attached" will be addressed in the subsequent pages.

I. Potential Impacts on the Physical Environment

1) Topography

The existing Jordan Class III landfill is located on the flank of an upland ridge near the junction of Big Dry Creek and a side coulee.

Potential impacts: The previous operation of a Class II and Class III landfill at the facility has caused some disturbance of the natural topography. The operation of a Class IV landfill facility at the proposed site is anticipated to have some minor impacts on surface topographical features in the area. However, no additional impacts inconsistent with the operation of solid waste management systems are anticipated.

3) Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

Potential impacts to ground water: No impacts to the ground water resources of the area are anticipated from the operation of the proposed Class IV landfill. There is no useable ground water for 200 feet below the site. The soils in the area of the landfill are primarily sandy clay weathered from underlying shale formations.

The east side of the facility is adjacent to a small coulee which drains into either a canal or Big Dry Creek located one (1) mile upstream of Jordan. Approximately two square miles of rangeland is drained by this coulee.

Potential impacts to surface water: No impacts to surface water resources are anticipated. Past use of the site as a Class II and III landfill has resulted in run-on and run-off control issues being addressed at the facility. These controls will be maintained at the facility and will control sediment yield during the wetter months or during the brief but intense thunder storms common to the area during the summer.

4) Air Quality

If approved to operate a Class IV landfill, the Town of Jordan will continue to operate the burn site currently in operation at the existing Class III facility. Traffic flow to and from the facility is anticipated remain the same.

Potential Impacts: Potential impacts from the operation of a Class IV facility at the existing Class III landfill is anticipated to be minor and should not exceed current impacts. According to the State Air Quality laws and rules, open burning will only take place when permitted by the Department. This will ensure that burning takes place under ideal conditions for particulate dispersal. Also no significant increase in dust emissions from the site is anticipated as traffic to and from the facility is anticipated to remain the same.

5) Demands on Environmental Resources of Land, Water, Air or Energy - Operation of any landfill site requires the consumption of energy for site maintenance, particularly equipment fuels. Energy consumption associated with the operation and maintenance of a solid waste landfill is directly related to the use of heavy equipment. Diesel fuel will be consumed in the operation of the equipment. The transportation of solid wastes also use significant amounts of fuel.

Potential Impacts: The energy demand, as a result of this modification, is not significantly different from the existing demand now placed on those resources by the existing Class III landfill. The operation and maintenance plan currently in place at the facility is not anticipated to be modified as a result of the proposed license change. Therefore, no adverse impacts are anticipated. The savings in fuel for transporting solid wastes to Miles City would be significant and is a major reason for the proposed license change.

8) Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

The natural vegetation found at the facility consists primarily of range grasses.

Potential Impact: The potential impacts to the natural vegetation at the proposed facility is anticipated to be very minor and temporary. Past landfilling activities at the site has disturbed the natural vegetation, however, state solid waste rules require that the site be revegetated after closure has been completed. Class IV landfills are also required to have financial assurance ensure the proper closure of the facility by a third party if the applicant cannot fulfill the closure obligations required by the Department.

10) Historical and Archaeological Site

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 site has been utilized for landfilling for over 20 years. Any such resources would have been impacted over that time period.

II. Potential Impact on Human Environment

4) Human Health and Safety

The modification of the existing Class III license to a Class IV will allow the continued disposal of Group III wastes as well as asphalt and other construction and demolition wastes.

Potential Impacts: The modification of the existing Class III to a Class IV landfill is not anticipated to add to the potential health and safety risks associated with the Class III landfill. The on site soil conditions (sandy clay) and > 200 feet depth to ground water below the site are the primary factors preventing impacts to the ground water resources in the area, thus reducing the risk to human health. The random screening of wastes at the facility to detect regulated quantities of hazardous or PCB wastes should also reduce the risk of additional impacts associated with Class IV landfills.

7) Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue The proposal would not change the tax base or tax revenue of any of the entities involved. However, there may be cost savings to Garfield County as a result of the reduction in hauling costs since construction and demolition wastes will no longer be hauled to the Custer County - Miles City Class II landfill.

8) Demand for Government Services

The proposed landfill will require periodic inspections by Department personnel and the County Sanitarian. The solid waste management license for this facility must be renewed annually.

REFERENCES

Jordan Class IV Landfill Application, Damschen and Associates, November 1997.

Jordan Class III Landfill, DEQ File.

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