

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

RECEIVED

ISSUED TO: Bear Paw Energy Inc, Baker Gas Plant

PERMIT NUMBER: 2736-05

OCT 09 1998

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION ON PERMIT ISSUED: 10/07/98

**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

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, SW¼, Section 6, T7N, R60E, Fallon County

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Bear Paw has applied for an alteration to permit #2736-04, this alteration includes adding 1250 hp to the facility. This will be done by either adding one (1) 1250 hp Waukesha compressor engine with a Johnson Mathey catalytic converter or a series of Waukesha compressor engines totaling 1250 hp, each with its own Johnson Mathey catalytic converter.

BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL: The 1250 hp compressor engine(s) will allow Bear Paw to increase natural gas transmission, however, the facility's overall permitted production rate is not permitted to increase. The catalytic converter(s) will be used to control emissions from the compressor engine(s).

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 #2736-05.

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

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

Potential Impact on Human Environment

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

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

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats
2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution
3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture
4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality
5. Aesthetics
7. Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources
8. Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy
9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

The proposed permit alteration will not have significant effect on the above listed issues; the facility is existing and the proposed change will not cause further disturbances to the physical environment.

6. Air Quality
10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Air quality impacts will also be non-significant for the added equipment. The following emissions are cumulative for the site:

PM-10	0.891	Tons/yr
NOX	51.40	Tons/yr
VOC	51.14	Tons/yr
CO	60.62	Tons/yr
SOx	117.0	Tons/yr

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Social Structures and Mores
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity
3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue
4. Agricultural or Industrial Production
5. Human Health
6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment
8. Distribution of Population
9. Demands of Government Services
10. Industrial and Commercial Activity
11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals
12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The proposed permit alteration will not have significant effects on the above listed issues. The facility is existing and the addition of the compressor engine(s) will not significantly impact the human environment.

RECOMMENDATION: An EIS is not required.

IF AN EIS IS NOT REQUIRED, EXPLAIN WHY THE EA IS AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ANALYSIS: The proposed permit alteration will not have significant impacts on the environment.

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.
Montana Natural Heritage Program.
State Historical Preservation Office.

EA PREPARED BY: Lana Hedlund

DATE: 09/25/98