

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
1520 East Sixth Avenue
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MODIFIED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued For: Woods Crushing and Hauling, Inc.
933 Woodside Road
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

Permit Number: 3024-00

Preliminary Determination on Permit Issued: 10/13/98

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

Legal Description of Site: The original plant site is located at sections 21 (SE1/4), 28 (NE1/4), 27 (GOV. LOTS 2 and 3), T32N, R34W, in Lincoln County, MT.

Description of Project: Woods Crushing proposes to use this crushing plant and associated equipment to crush and sort sand and gravel materials for use in their construction operations.

For a typical operational setup, the raw material is fed into the feeder by a front-end loader, or similar piece of equipment. From the feeder, the material is sent through the jaw, cone, and rolls, then through the screen, and ultimately conveyed to a stockpile for use.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: Increased business and revenue for the company.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider: None available.

A listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency: A listing of the enforceable permit conditions and a permit analysis, including a Best Available Control Technology analysis, is contained in permit #3024-00.

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 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.

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Potential Impact on Physical Environment							
		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Included
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							
		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Included
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

Terrestrials will use the areas in which the crusher operations occur. However, the crusher operations alone will present only minor affects to the terrestrial life. In addition, the crusher operations are portable and the affects will be limited by short-term nature of operation.

2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

Water will be used as pollution control, but will only cause a minor disturbance to the area. No surface water or ground water quality problems are expected as a result of using water for pollution control. Any accidental spills or leaks from equipment will be handled according to the appropriate environmental regulations in an effort to minimize any potential adverse impact on the immediate and surrounding area.

3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

The soils will be impacted by the crusher operations. The impacts will be minor due to the size of the operation.

4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

The quality and quantity of vegetation cover will be affected by the crusher operations. Given the temporary nature of the facility and its operations the impacts will be minor.

5. Aesthetics

The crusher operations will be visible and will create additional noise in the area. Permit #3024-00 includes conditions to control emissions (including visible emissions) from the plant. Since the crusher operations are small, and temporary, any noise impacts will be minimal.

6. Air Quality

The air quality impacts from the crusher operations are minor. Permit #3024-00 includes conditions limiting diesel fuel consumption, the opacity from the plant, as well as requiring water spray bars to control air pollution. The crusher operations are limited by permit #3024-00 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from non-fugitive sources at the plant, in addition to any additional equipment at any individual site.

7. Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources

Woods Crushing and Hauling proposes to screen and crush rock that has previously been stockpiled on location at the proposed site. The proposed project is a 20-30 day operation commencing in November 1998.

The department has contacted the Montana Natural Heritage Resource Program in an effort to identify any sensitive, unique, endangered, or threatened environmental resource. Search results have concluded that there are several such environmental resources in the area. Area in this case will be defined by the township and range of the proposed site with an additional one mile buffer. The environmental resources of interest include the Coeur D'Alene Salamander, the Common Loon, the White Sturgeon, the Bald Eagle, the Grizzly Bear and Geyers Biscuitroot. It is unlikely that any of the previously listed species will be adversely affected by the proposed project due to the fact that most of these species have no documented occurrence within 1 mile of the proposed site. The exception is the Bald Eagle with a documented nesting site location in close proximity to the proposed site. Therefore, the proposed area does represent a potential nesting site for the Bald Eagle. However, the proposed project will not take place during the recognized Bald Eagle nesting period of February 7 - August 15 (ref. Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan). Therefore, it is not expected that the project will adversely affect any potential population of Eagles in the area. If the project does continue to operate into and during the Bald Eagle nesting period, Woods Crushing and Hauling will be responsible for compliance with any applicable rules and regulations including the Bald Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Endangered Species Act as applicable. The department has determined that it is unlikely that the proposed operations will have an adverse impact on any sensitive, unique, endangered, or threatened species.

8. Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy

The crusher operations will only demand small quantities of water, air, and energy for proper operating. Generally, the operations are seasonal, which results in smaller demands on the environmental resources.

9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

The department is not aware of any historical or archaeological sites located on the proposed premises. However, historical and archaeological sites may be present at the locations where the crusher operations will be performed. The crusher operations may move into sites that are pre-existing and that have been investigated for the open-cut mining contract that may be issued for each individual site.

10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The crusher operations will cause a minor affect to both the physical environment and human environment. There is potential for other operations to locate at these sites. However, any operations will have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits from the department prior to operation. These permits will address the environmental impacts associated with the operations at this or any other site. The crusher operations are limited by permit #3024-00 to total

particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from non-fugitive crusher operations and any other additional equipment used at the site.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Social Structures and Mores

The crusher operation will cause no disruption to the native or traditional lifestyles or communities of the area.

2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

The crusher operation will have no impact on the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area.

3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

The crusher operations will have little, if any, affects on the local and state tax base and tax revenue. The facility is a temporary source and therefore will not remain at the proposed site for any substantial period of time.

4. Agricultural or Industrial Production

The crusher operations will not displace any agricultural production. The crusher operations are small by industrial standards and will therefore have only a minor impact on local industrial production.

5. Human Health

Permit #3024-00 incorporates conditions to ensure that the crusher operations will be operated in compliance with all applicable rules and standards. These rules and standards are designed to be protective of human health.

6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The crusher operations will not affect any access to recreational and wilderness activities. However, minor affects to the quality of recreational and wilderness activities may be created by the noise from the site. Any impacts from the site will be temporary due to the portable nature of the crusher operations.

7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

The activities from the crusher operations will not affect the quantity and distribution of employment in the area. Woods Crushing will utilize a few company employees for the duration of the temporary project.

8. Distribution of Population

The crusher operations will not disrupt the normal population distribution in the area. Woods Crushing employees will utilize temporary housing while the project is in progress.

9. Demands of Government Services

Minor increases will be seen in traffic on existing roads in the area while the crusher operations are in progress. The only other government services demanded for this project will be acquiring the appropriate permits from government agencies.

10. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The crusher 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 crusher operations.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

The department is not aware of any locally adopted environmental plans or goals. The state standards will protect the immediate environment around the crusher site.

12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The crusher operations will cause a minor affect to both the physical environment and human environment. There is potential for other operations to locate at these sites. However, any operations will have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits from the department prior to operation. These permits will address the environmental impacts associated with the operations at this or any other site. The crusher operations are limited by permit #3024-00 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the crusher operations and any other additional equipment used at the site.

Recommendation: No EIS is required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: Since this plant is a portable source, there will be no significant impacts. The controls contained in permit #3024-00 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.

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting and Compliance Division, Montana Natural Heritige Program.

Revised EA prepared by: M. Eric Merchant, MPH
Date: October 20, 1998