

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
PERMITTING & COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Community Services Bureau  
Waste Management Section

MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR



STATE OF MONTANA

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**ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL**

November 9, 1998

Cascade County Commissioners, 325 2nd Avenue North, Courthouse Annex Rm 111, Great Falls, MT 59401-2537

Cherry Loney, R.N., Cascade County Health Officer, 1130 17th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405-4523

Jennifer Mench, Zoning Administrator, Great Falls City-County Planning Board, P.O. Box 5021, Great Falls, MT 59403-5021

Eugene Shumaker, President, Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc., P.O. Box 1442, Great Falls, MT 59403-1442

Dave Heckler, Environmental Officer, 341st CES\CEV, 39 78th Street, Malstrom Air Force Base, MT 59402-7536

Edward R. Teddy, Jr., 2416 3rd Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405-2906

Paul Sihler, Administrative Officer, Director's Office, Fish 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:

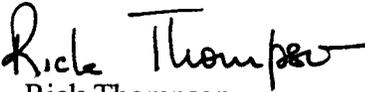
Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 17.4.607(2) and 17.4.609(2), the following Environmental Assessment has been prepared by the Department of Environmental Quality concerning the proposed Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc., Class IV solid waste landfill located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, Township 21 North, Range 4 East, and in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 1, Township 20 North, Range 4 East, M.P.M. Cascade County, Montana. Generally, the site is located adjacent to and northeast of the Malstrom Air Force Base.

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.

Shumaker Class IV EA  
November 9, 1998  
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If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so in writing, within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

  
Rick Thompson  
Solid Waste Licensing Program

Encl: Environmental Assessment

ASHUMAKER.LTR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
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**CHECK LIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

1. **Name of proposed facility:** Shumaker Class IV Landfill and Burn Site.

**Name of applicant:** Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc.

**Address of applicant:** P.O. Box 1442, Great Falls, MT 59403-1442

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 landfill.

3. **a) Legal description of proposed location:** Approximately 25.5 acres in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, Township 21 North, Range 4 East, and approximately 18.4 acres in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 1, Township 20 North, Range 4 East, M.P.M. Cascade County, Montana. (Figure 1. Location Map.)

**b) General description of facility location:** The facility is located adjacent to and northeast of the Malstrom Air Force Base.

4. **If the property is not owned by the applicant, give name and address of lessor who holds title to the property:**

**Name:** Mr. Edward R. Teddy, Jr.

**Address:** 2416 3rd Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405-2906

5. **Total acreage of proposed site:** Approximately 43.9 acres.

Acreage useable for the solid waste system: Forty three and nine tenth (43.9) acres, with approximately one (1) acre to be used for a burn site.

6. **Population to be served by solid waste system:** Malstrom Air Force Base.

**Tonnage to be accepted per year:** Approximately 2000 tons per year. The estimated life for the facility is five (5) years.



7. **Description of the purpose and benefits of the proposed action:**
  - a) The application submitted by Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc. 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 proposed action would benefit the applicant and other contractors by providing a construction and demolition waste disposal site which is in close proximity to the Malstrom AFB. This would reduce transportation and disposal costs to the applicant and other contractors working on the base.
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.
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 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 and the Cascade City-County Health Department.
14. **Individuals or groups contributing to this EA:**

Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc. Class IV Landfill Application, November 1997; Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc., Class III Landfill, DEQ File; Mr. F. Patrick Crowley, DEQ-Verbal Communication.

**EA prepared by: Rick Thompson and Pat Crowley, Waste Management Section.**

**Date: November 9, 1998**

**IMPACTS**

<u>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</u>		Major	Moderate	Minor	No	Unknown	Attached
1. TOPOGRAPHY: Are there unusual geologic features?					XX		
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		
Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?					XX		
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?					XX		
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?					XX		
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?					XX		
Any wetlands?					XX		
Any species of special concern?					XX		
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?					XX		
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**

<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>	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?				XX		
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? If so, estimate number.				XX		
7. LOCAL & STATE TAX BASE REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?				XX		
8. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?				XX		
9. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES & PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?			XXX			XXX
10. ACCESS TO & QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL & WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? 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		

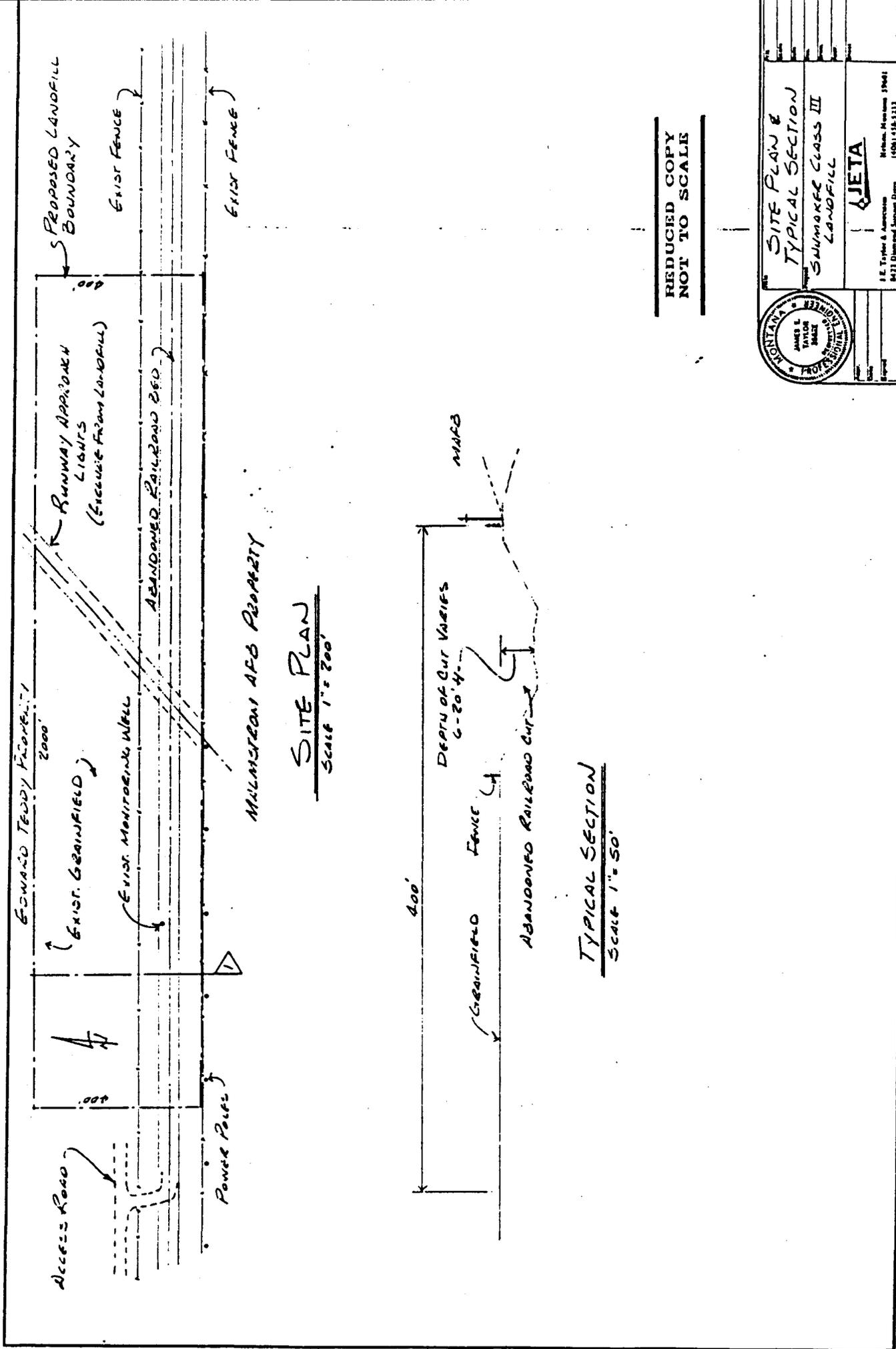


Figure 2. Site Plan (Shumaker 1997).

## **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 proposed Class IV fill area will be located in 2000 feet x 400 feet parcel. Presently a portion of the area to be fill is a 150 feet wide abandoned rail road bed which parallels the Malstrom Air Force Base property line. This area varies in depth between six (6) and twenty (20) feet. The remainder of the fill area will be excavated sequentially as shown in Figure 2. Site Plan.

*Potential impacts:* The operation of a Class IV landfill at the proposed location will be some minor impacts on the topography. A positive impact that will result will be the filling and reclamation of the abandoned rail road grade. A negative impact resulting from landfilling operations at the proposed site involves the excavation of the cells prior to filling and the stockpiling of cover material. It is anticipated that those impacts on surface topographical features in the area will be minor and temporary as the cells will be filled and reclaimed prior to the closure of the facility in approximately five (5) years.

#### **4) Air Quality**

If approved to operate a Class IV landfill, the applicant will also operate a Class III burn site.

*Potential Impacts:* Potential impacts from the operation of a Class IV landfill and Class III Burn Site at the existing Class III landfill is anticipated to be minor. 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.

### **II. Potential Impact on Human Environment**

#### **9) Industrial, Commercial & Agricultural Activities & Production**

*Potential Impacts:* The addition of a Class IV landfill to the Great Falls area will increase the options for the disposal of Group IV and Group III wastes. However, the impact is anticipated to be minor as the use of the facility will be limited to Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc., and their customers.

## REFERENCES

Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc. Class IV Landfill Application, November 1997,

Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc. Class III Landfill, DEQ File.

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