

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued For: Schellinger Construction Company  
P.O. Box 39  
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 07 1998**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL**

Permit Number: 2624-07

Department Decision on Modification Issued: 12/03/98

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

Summer Location: Any location in or within 10 kilometers of any PM-10 nonattainment area through the summer months (April 1, 1999 to September 30, 1999).

Winter Locations: At any of the following locations within the Kalispell PM-10 nonattainment area.

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 23, Township 30 North, Range 21 West (A-1 Paving Hodgson Road Pit),

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 26, Township 29 North, Range 22 West (Tutvedt Pit),

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 31, Township 29 North, Range 21 West (NUPAC Pit),

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 22, Township 29 North, Range 21 West (A-1 Paving Mohl Pit),

N $\frac{1}{2}$ , Section 21, Township 30 North, Range 21 West (Carlson Pit),

S $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 31, Township 31 North, Range 22 West (Peschel Pit), and

NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 9, Township 27 North, Range 21 West (Spoklie Pit).

Description of Project: This permit and addendum are for the operation of a 1976 Pioneer 50 VE portable Duplex gravel crusher #50-VE-217 and associated equipment.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: This plant crushes and sorts sand and gravel for use in various construction industries.

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 are contained in permit #2624-07 and in Addendum 7 to the permit.

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 applicable 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			See Attached Comments
2	Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution			X			See Attached Comments
3	Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture			X			See Attached Comments
4	Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality			X			See Attached Comments
5	Aesthetics			X			See Attached Comments
6	Air Quality			X			See Attached Comments
7	Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resource			X			See Attached Comments
8	Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy			X			See Attached Comments
9	Historical and Archaeological Sites				X		See Attached Comments
10	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			See Attached Comments

### Potential Impact on Human Environment

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

**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. Furthermore, since all of the Schellinger winter time sites are preexisting pits, additional impacts to the terrestrial and aquatic life and habitats are not expected as a result of the crusher operations.

**2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution**

Water will be used as air 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 air pollution control because the water will only be used to reduce the fugitive dust. 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 water quality.

**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 and the small amount of time that is spent at each of the sites by the portable plant. All of the proposed wintertime sites are preexisting and have applied for and received an open cut mining contract from the Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau. Following the mining in each of the contracted opencut sites, the sites will be revegetated to protect the soil quality, stability, and moisture.

**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. Following the mining in each of the contracted opencut sites, the sites will be revegetated to enhance the vegetation cover, quantity, and quality.

**5. Aesthetics**

The crusher operations will be visible and will create additional noise in the area. Permit #2624-07 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. Additional restrictions have been placed on the crusher operations to protect the air quality at any winter time location in or within 10 kilometers of any PM10 nonattainment area.

6. Air Quality

The air quality impacts from the crusher operations are minor. Permit #2624-07 includes conditions limiting the opacity from the plant, as well as requiring water spray bars to control air pollution. The crusher operations are limited by permit #2624-07 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons per year or less from non-fugitive sources at the plant, in addition to any additional equipment at any individual site.

SCREEN3 modeling was performed for the facility to demonstrate what production limits were necessary to be protective of the ambient air quality standards while operating in or within 10 kilometers of any PM10 nonattainment area. By limiting the amount of material that is crushed and screened while operating in or within 10 kilometers of any nonattainment area, permit #2624-07 will be protective of the ambient air quality standards.

7. Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources

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 areas. 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 common loon, bald eagle, black tern, le conte's sparrow, shorthead sculpin, last best place damselfly, short-styled thistle, spalding's campion, latah tule pea, spurred gentian, pygmy water-lily, deer indian paintbrush, kidney-leaf white violet, red-root flatsedge, beaked spikerush, slender cottongrass, water bulrush, columbia water-meal, small yellow lady's slipper, maidenhair spleenwort, grizzly bear, and the guadalupe water-nymph. The department has determined that it is unlikely that the proposed operations will cause an adverse impact on any of the aforementioned sensitive, unique, endangered, or threatened species. The amount of property used by the crusher operations is quite small compared with the surrounding habitat for the unique, endangered, or threatened species mentioned above.

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 has contacted the Montana Historical Society, Historic Preservation Office to determine if there are any historical or archaeological sites located on the proposed premises. As reported by the Montana Historical Society, there are currently no previously recorded historic or archaeological sites within the designated search locale that includes the Tutvedt Pit, Peschel

Pit, Carlson Pit, Nupac Pit, and the Spoklie Pit. Further review of the Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau, Open cut Mining files indicates that there are no known historic or archaeological sites within the A-1 Paving Hodgson Pit or the A-1 Paving Mohl Pit.

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 receive 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 #2624-07 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons per year or less from non-fugitive crusher operations and any other additional equipment used at the site. In addition, crushing and screening limitations have been placed in Addendum 7 to permit 2624-07 to further protect the ambient air quality standards of the PM10 nonattainment areas.

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 affects on the local and state tax base and tax revenue. The facility is a temporary source; however, most of the work crushing that Schellinger Construction does is in the vicinity of the Kalispell area. Although portable, the crusher operations are steady and employ numerous people in the area.

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 #2624-07 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. Further restraints will be placed on Schellinger while operating in or within any PM10 nonattainment area during the winter months to be protective of the PM10 nonattainment areas.

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 additional noise that will be created from the crusher operations. 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 result in any increased employment or a change in the distribution of employment in the area. Schellinger will utilize current employees for the crushing and screening operation.

8. Distribution of Population

The crusher operations will not disrupt the normal population distribution in the area. Schellinger employees may utilize temporary housing or hotels for the duration of projects that keep them from home. However, no distribution of population will result from the crusher operations.

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. Further monitoring of these roads may be required. 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. However, the product from the crusher operations may be used for building any industrial or commercial facilities that may locate in the area.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

This permit will be protective of the PM10 nonattainment areas that are covered in the State Implementation Plans (SIPs). Addendum 7 to permit 2624-07 contains additional requirements that Schellinger must comply with while operating in or within 10 kilometers of any PM10 nonattainment area.

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 receive 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 #2624-07 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons per year or less from non-fugitive crusher operations and any other additional equipment used at the site. In addition, crushing and screening limitations have been placed in Addendum 7 to permit 2624-07 to further protect the ambient air quality standards of the PM10 nonattainment areas.

**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 to any one area. The controls contained in permit #2624-07 and Addendum 7 will limit the emissions and protect human health and the ambient standards.

**Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:** Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau (IEMB), Montana Historical Society, and Montana Natural Resource Information System.

**Individuals or groups contributing to this EA:** DEQ - Air and Waste Management Bureau (AWMB), DEQ - IEMB, Montana Natural Heritage Program, State Historical Preservation Office.

**Revised EA prepared by:** Dan Walsh  
**Date:** December 3, 1998