

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

Issued For: Croxford & Sons Funeral Home & Crematory
1307 Central Ave.
Great Falls, Montana 59401

RECEIVED

DEC 13 1998

Permit Number: 3032-00

**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

Preliminary Determination on Permit Issued: December 14, 1998

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

Legal Description of Site: NW ¼ of Section 7, Township 20 North, Range 4 East, Cascade County, Montana

Description of Project: Croxford & Sons proposes to install a crematorium at their facility to cremate human remains.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: This project will provide families with an alternative method of burial for family members.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider: A reasonable alternative would be the no action alternative. This would require that no human remains be cremated by Croxford & Sons. With this alternative families would not have the option of cremating family members. The department has reviewed a best available control technology analysis and a risk assessment for this proposal. These are contained in the permit analysis and demonstrate that this proposed project will not violate any air quality requirements.

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 are contained in permit #3032-00.

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.

| 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 same areas as the crematorium. However, the crematorium will present only minor affects to the terrestrial life.

2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

Water will not be affected in any manner from this proposal.

3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

The soils will not be impacted by the crematorium because it will be located in an existing building. No new construction of footings, foundations, etc. that would disturb the soil will be necessary.

4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

The vegetation cover will not be affected by the crematorium because it will be located in an existing building. No new construction of footings, foundations, etc. that would disturb the soil will be necessary

5. Aesthetics

There may be visible emissions from the operation of the crematorium; however, any impacts will be minor because the crematorium will be limited by permit to an opacity of 10%.

6. Air Quality

The air quality impacts from the crematorium are minor. Permit #3032-00 includes conditions limiting the opacity from the crematorium, as well as a particulate emission limit.

7. Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources

The affects to unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources are minor because the crematorium is small and its emissions are well regulated.

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

The crematorium will only demand small quantities of air and energy for proper operation.

9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

Historical and archeological sites are not present at the existing facility where the crematorium will operate.

10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The addition of this crematorium will only present minor Cumulative and Secondary Impacts because the amount of emissions from this type of operation are small and well regulated. In addition, a health risk assessment was completed as part of this permitting action which demonstrates that the proposed crematorium would constitute a negligible risk to human health and the environment.

Potential Impact on Human Environment

1. Social Structures and Mores

There will be no disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities from the crematorium.

2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

The crematorium will not cause a change in the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area.

3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

The crematorium will have a minor impact on the local and state tax base and tax revenue. The crematorium will serve a need and will generate local revenue in the process.

4. Agricultural or Industrial Production

The crematorium will not create any agricultural or industrial production.

5. Human Health

The proposed emissions from the crematorium will have minor impacts on human health. Permit #3032-00 incorporates conditions to ensure that the crematorium will be operated in compliance with all applicable rules and standards. In addition, a health risk assessment was conducted as part of this permit that demonstrates there will be negligible risk to human health and the environment from the crematorium.

6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The operation of the crematorium will not have any affect on the access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

The operation of the crematorium will not affect the quantity and distribution of employment in the area. No new employees will be hired as a result of this project.

8. Distribution of Population

The operation of the crematorium will not require additional or less housing in the area because no new employees will be hired as a result of this project.

9. Demands of Government Services

Minor increases may be seen in traffic on existing roads in the area while the crematorium is operating. The only other government services demanded for this project will be acquiring the appropriate permits.

10. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The crematorium will not result in an increase in the industrial and commercial activity in the area.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

The crematorium will not affect any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The addition of this crematorium will only present minor Cumulative and Secondary Impacts because the amount of emissions from this type of operation are small and well regulated. In addition, a health risk assessment was completed as part of this permitting action which demonstrates that the proposed crematorium would constitute a negligible risk to human health and the environment.

Recommendation: An EIS is not required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: The source is applying the Best Available Control Technology; the analyses indicates compliance with all applicable air quality rules and regulations; and there are no major impacts associated with this proposal.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: None

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Department of Environmental Quality - Air and Waste Management Bureau.

EA prepared by: David Klemp

Date: December 10, 1998