

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Small Volume Permit #S-0300-18	Proposed Implementation Date: September 17, 2004
Proponent: Twin Hills Colony, 4177 Beaver Slide Road, Carter, MT 59420, ph# 734-5350	
Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant has applied for a small volume permit to remove 300 yards of pit run – river rock from state land.	
Location: SW¼SW¼, north of river, Sec 17, T29N, R6E	County: Liberty

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I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	None	LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	There are no other agencies with jurisdiction on this project.	
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Approve the Small Volume Permit No action. Do not approve the Small Volume Permit.	

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

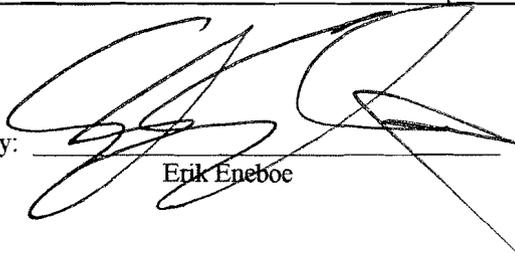
RESOURCE	[Y/N]	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
		N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N]	Less than .25 acre of surface disturbance will occur during this project. The area will be recontoured and reclaimed following material removal. Cumulative impacts on soil resources are not expected.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N]	The proposed action will not impact water quality, quantity or distribution.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N]	The proposed action will not impact air quality.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N]	Existing vegetation in the area to be mined is generally sparse. The disturbed area will be small scale and will be reclaimed and revegetated following material removal. The applicant will monitor noxious weeds.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] No long-term negative affects on existing wildlife species and/or wildlife habitat are expected.
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no species of special concern or any other sensitive habitat types associated with the proposed project area.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] No historic and / or cultural resources were observed in the project area.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Long-term changes to the aesthetics character of the land will not occur.
12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy will not be affected by the proposed action. The proposed action will not consume resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed project.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[N] Currently, there are no other studies, plans, or projects associated with the proposed project area.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] None
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N] Pit run material will be used on the Twin Hills Colony for rip rap on a large reservoir. The surface lessee, Pugsley Ranch has been contacted and does not have any concerns. Agricultural activities will not be impacted.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] None
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] None
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] None
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] The proposed action is in compliance with State and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.

<p>20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] This tract of state land has high recreational value. This parcel of State Land is legally accessible to the public. Because the proposed action is temporary in nature, and is a small-scale disturbance, impacts to general recreational activities are not expected.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] None</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>[N] None</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or the cultural diversity of the area.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] The School Trust will be compensated \$1.00/yrd or \$300.00 total for removal of this material.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By:



Erik Eneboe

Conrad Unit Manager - CLO Date: September 17, 2004

Title

APPLICATION

SMALL VOLUME PERMIT

PERMIT NO. S-0300-18

NAME OF APPLICANT: Twin Hills Colony

ADDRESS: 4177 Beaverslide Road

CITY: Carter STATE: MT ZIP: 59420

PHONE: 734-5216 Fax 734-5350

TYPE OF AGGREGATE: Pit Run - River Rock

SECTION: 17 TOWNSHIP: T29N RANGE: R6E

DESCRIPTION: SW 1/4 SW 1/4 - North of River

PIT NAME (If applicable): _____

COUNTY: Liberty

The total quantity of aggregate to be removed at this time will be: _____
300 yards cubic yards or tons.

Date this permit is effective: Sept 17, 2004

Date this permit expires: Dec. 15, 2004

The applicant agrees to pay a royalty of \$1.00 per cubic yard/per ton for the quantity of aggregate removed.

AMOUNT RECEIVED \$ 300.00 (\$25.00 Fee plus Royalty)

BOND AMOUNT \$ NONE (If Required)

The Department hereby grants the applicant a permit to mine and remove the above listed amount of aggregate from the above described location.

The applicant shall save all topsoil and reclaim any land disturbed pursuant to this Small Volume Permit and agrees to the following special stipulations:

(See back of page for additional stipulations)

The applicant shall contact the surface lessee prior to removal of aggregate.

Lessee Name Pugsley Ranch
Address Kent Matkin
Phone # 456-3314 759-5586

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

PERMITTEE

BY: [Signature]

BY: Sam S. Wiff

DATE: Sept 18, 2004

DATE: Sept 17-04