

RECEIVED

APR 18 2006



**Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • www.deq.mt.gov

April 14, 2006

Powell County Commissioners, 409 Missouri Ave, Deer Lodge, MT 59722-1084
Chad Ianes, Powell County Sanitarian, 800 S Main, Anaconda MT 59711
Don Sullivan, PA-C, Powell County Health Officer, 1101 Texas, Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 E 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620
Tom Ellerhoff, DEQ, Director's Office, Helena, MT 59620
Jeff Ryan, DEQ, Water Protection Bureau, 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
Montana Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800

Ladies and Gentlemen:

To comply with the Administrative Rules of Montana, 17.4.607(2) and 17.4.609(2), the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) prepared the enclosed checklist Environmental Assessment (EA). The checklist EA is for the land application of septage in Powell County, Montana. Disposal would occur at this site on an as-needed basis.

The purpose of the checklist EA is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups, and individuals of the action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on human health and the environment.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at the Permitting and Compliance Division, Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau, Solid Waste Section, (406) 444-1434 or e-mail renhill@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Renai Hill
Environmental Science Specialist
Waste & Underground Tank Management Bureau

Enclosure: Checklist EA - Wolf Septic Service, S-920

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Permitting and Compliance Division
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau
Solid Waste Management Section
Metcalf Building
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

**CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SEPTIC TANK PUMPERS**

1. PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED FOR AGENCY ACTION:

Mr. Dalton Watkins of WOLF SEPTIC SERVICE has submitted an application for a Montana Septic Tank Pumpers License (STP License S-920). WOLF SEPTIC SERVICE is located in Seeley Lake, MT and does business in Missoula, Powell and Lake counties.

The purpose of this checklist Environmental Assessment (EA) is to document environmental issues related to the disposal of septage type waste in Powell County on Ted Murphy Property located in Sections 27, E1/2 of Section 28, N1/2 of Sections 34 & 35, T15N, R12W.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Septic Tank Pumper Disposal site application for a:

(check one only and complete a separate assessment for each site)

- Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Land Application Site
- Septage Processor or Composter
- Class II Landfill
- other (specify)

3. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN:

Source, Types and Amount of Wastes:

- Septage – estimated total gal/year **50,000**
- Portable Toilet/Vault Toilet Type Waste – estimated total gal/year
- Grease Trap Waste - estimated total gal/year
- Sump Pumpings *(specify type below)*
 - Automatic Car Wash Bay Sump - estimated total gal/yr
 - Attended Car Wash Bay Sump - estimated total gal/yr
 - Unattended Car Wash Bay Sump - estimated total gal/yr
 - Other Sump, specify: _____ estimated total gal/yr

4. Disposal Site Characteristics:

YES	NO	N/A	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal description of proposed disposal site location provided?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	General description of disposal site location provided?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acreage adequate to manage proposed waste volume? 1200 acres
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total proposed volume less than/equal to AAR?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Setback boundaries detailed on site map? (buildings, roads, drainages)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance to building greater than 500-feet?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance to state surface water greater than 150-feet?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance to state, federal, county, or city maintained road greater than 100-feet?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance to drinking water supply source greater than 100-feet?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Slope of land surface less than 6-percent? (subsurface injection less than 12%)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depth to ground water greater than 6-feet?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landowner's permission of site use provided?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VAPR method provided?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AAR calculation provided? If not, then: $AAR = 75/0.0026 = 28,846$ gal/acre
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crop/yield information provided? Grass @ 75#N/acre
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Current use of proposed disposal site noted?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approval available from WWTP within 25 miles of the point of generation during year when ground frozen or snow covered?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disposal site property ownership information provided?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site restrictions noted? Animal Grazing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crop Harvesting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	List of equipment to manage wastes provided? Tractor harrow & tiller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site access control noted?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VAPR method noted? Limed & Harrowed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VAPR method adequate for site conditions?
If 'NO' checked for one or more items, provide explanation below			

AAR calculated by Department based on licensee information.

5. DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES WHENEVER ALTERNATIVES ARE REASONABLY AVAILABLE AND PRUDENT TO CONSIDER:

The Department considered three alternatives:

1. Approve the disposal site. The site meets all of the requirements of the Cesspool, Septic Tank, and Privy Cleaners Act (Act). The site soils, slope, depth to ground water, approvals, and setback requirements have been met.
2. Not approve the land application site. The site fails to meet the requirements of the Act.
3. Have the applicant seek an alternative site. If this alternative is chosen, the applicant will have to seek another site for land application and could spend a large amount of time and potentially money to locate, study, and license another site suitable for septage land application.

6. EVALUATION OF MITIGATION, STIPULATIONS AND OTHER CONTROLS ENFORCEABLE BY THE AGENCY OR ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY:

The proposed land application site and operation and maintenance plan must meet the requirements of the Montana Septic Tank, Cesspool, and Privy Cleaners Act, Air and Water Quality Acts and other Montana environmental laws and regulations as well as County ordinances. Compliance with these laws and regulations should keep any environmental effects to a minimum. The licensee will operate the site under the guidelines of the approved Operations Plan.

7. FINDINGS:

The Department finds that there would be little or no impacts to the physical and human environment if the septage is treated in a manner consistent with the rules and regulations. Therefore, a check list EA is the appropriate level of analysis and an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed. This treatment option is a beneficial reuse of a waste product.

EA prepared by: Renai Hill

Date: April 14, 2006

TABLE 1. Predicted Impacts of the Proposed Project on the Physical & Biological Environments.

RESOURCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT ¹					
	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Appendix
1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitat				✓		
2. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution				✓		
3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture				✓		
4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality				✓		
5. Aesthetics				✓		
6. Air Quality				✓		
7. Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources				✓		
8. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy				✓		
9. Historical and Archaeological Sites				✓		

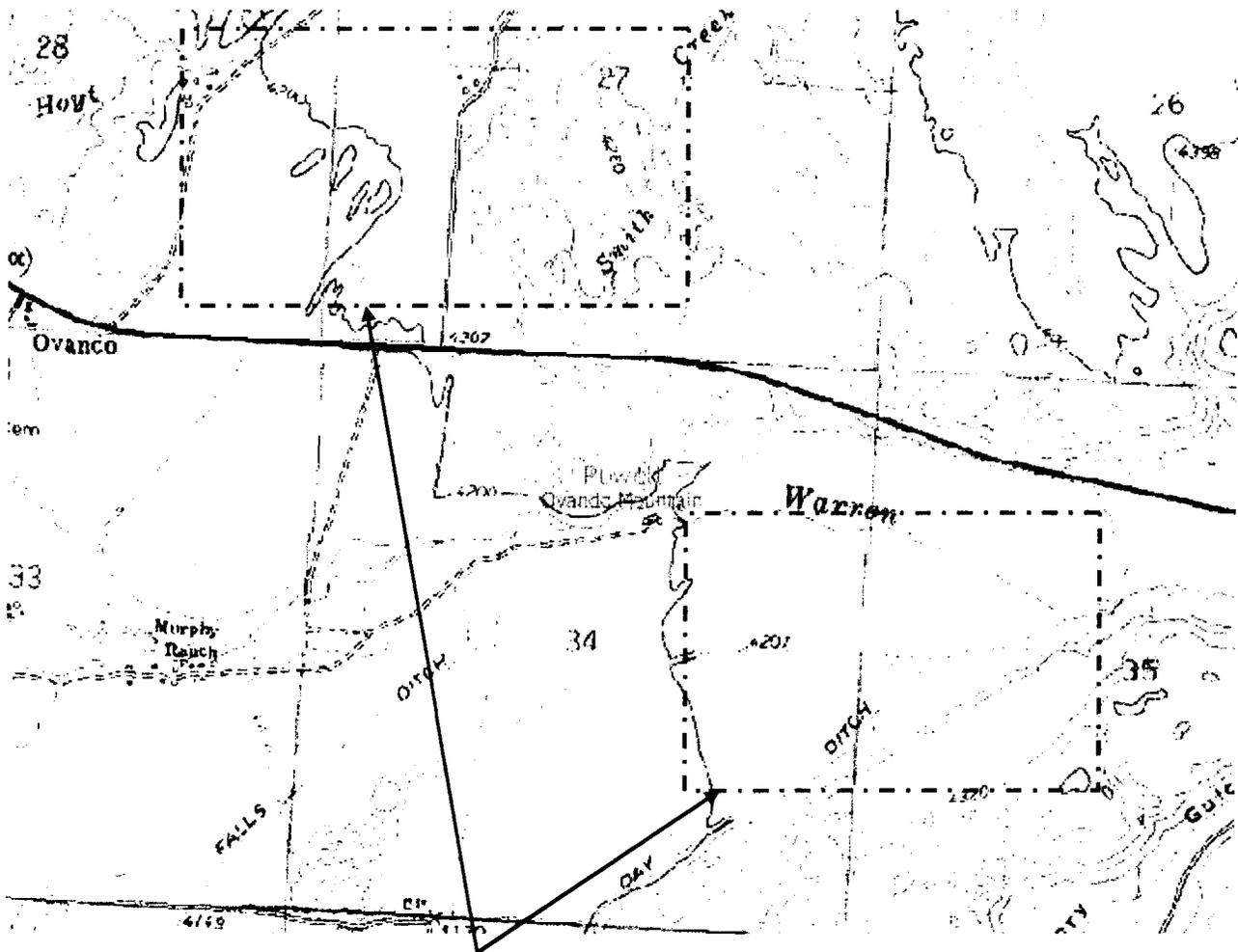
¹ CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: None for the Proposed Project, because compliance with the Montana Cesspool, Septic Tank, and Privy Cleaners Act mitigates impacts on human health and the environment and no other projects affect the area.

TABLE 2. Predicted Impacts of the Proposed Project on the Social & Economic Environments.

RESOURCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT ¹					
	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Appendix
1. Social Structure and Mores				✓		
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				✓		
3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue				✓		
4. Agricultural or Industrial Production				✓		
5. Human Health				✓		
6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities				✓		
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment				✓		
8. Distribution of Population				✓		
9. Demands for Government Services				✓		
10. Industrial and Commercial Activity				✓		
11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals				✓		

¹ CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: None for Proposed Project, because compliance with the Montana Cesspool, Septic Tank, and Privy Cleaners Act mitigates impacts on human health and the environment and no other projects affect the area.

**Figure 1: WOLF SEPTIC SERVICE
STP License #S-920
Land Application Site Location
Missoula County – Ted Murphy Property – Sections 27-28/Section 34-35,T15N,
R12W**



Approximate land application site boundaries