DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air Resources Management Bureau
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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued For: Schellinger Construction Co., Inc.
PO Box 39
Columbia Falls, MT 59912-0039

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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

Permit Number: 3824-00

Preliminary Determination Issued: 5/19/06
Department Decision Issued: 6/06/06
Permit Final:

1. *Legal Description of Site*: Schellinger submitted an application to operate a portable aggregate crushing/screening plant in Section 16, Township 29 North, Range 22 West, in Flathead County, Montana. Permit #3824-00 would apply while operating at any location in Montana, except within those areas having a Department-approved permitting program, those areas considered tribal lands, or those areas in or within 10 km of PM_{10} nonattainment areas. *A Missoula County air quality permit would be required for locations within Missoula County, Montana.* An addendum to this air quality permit would be required for locations in or within 10 km of PM_{10} nonattainment areas.

2. *Description of Project*: The permit applicant proposes the construction and operation of a portable aggregate crushing/screening facility consisting of a 1973 Pioneer Jaw Crusher, a 2-deck 6 x 16 screen, and associated equipment. Schellinger proposes to use this crushing/screening plant to crush sand and gravel materials for use in various construction operations. For a typical operational setup, materials are loaded into the crushing/screening plant by a feeder, transferred by conveyor, and passed through the crusher. Materials are crushed by the crusher and sent to the screens. Materials are screened, separated, and sent to stockpile for sale and use in construction operations.

3. *Objectives of Project*: The object of the project would be to produce business and revenue for the company through the sale and use of aggregate. The issuance of Permit #3824-00 would allow Schellinger to operate the permitted equipment at various locations throughout Montana, including the proposed initial site location.

4. *Additional Project Site Information*: In many cases, this crushing/screening operation may move to a general site location or open cut pit, which has been previously permitted through the Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau (IEMB). If this were the case, additional information for the site would be found in the Mined Land Reclamation Permit for that specific site.

5. *Alternatives Considered*: In addition to the proposed action, the Department considered the "no-action" alternative. The "no-action" alternative would deny issuance of the Montana Air Quality permit to the proposed facility. However, the Department does not consider the "no-action" alternative to be appropriate because Schellinger demonstrated compliance with all applicable rules and regulations as required for permit issuance. Therefore, the "no-action" alternative was eliminated from further consideration.

6. *A Listing of Mitigation, Stipulations, and Other Controls*: A list of the enforceable permit conditions and a permit analysis, including a BACT analysis, would be contained in Permit #3824-00.

7. *Regulatory Effects on Private Property Rights*: The Department considered alternatives to the conditions imposed in this permit as part of the permit development. The Department determined the permit conditions would be reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with applicable requirements and to demonstrate compliance with those requirements and would not unduly restrict private property rights.

8. *The following table summarizes the potential physical and biological effects of the proposed project on the human environment. The "no action alternative" was discussed previously.*

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Included
A.	Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats			X			yes
B.	Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution			X			yes
C.	Geology and Soil Quality, Stability, and Moisture			X			yes
D.	Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality			X			yes
E.	Aesthetics			X			yes
F.	Air Quality			X			yes
G.	Unique Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resource			X			yes
H.	Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air, and Energy			X			yes
I	Historical and Archaeological Sites				X		yes
J.	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			yes

Summary of Comments on Potential Physical and Biological Effects: The following comments have been prepared by the Department.

A. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats

Terrestrials would use the same area as the crushing/screening operations as well as the gravel pit area. The initial site is located in an existing gravel pit. Impacts on terrestrials and aquatic life could result from storm water runoff and pollutant deposition, but such impacts would be minor, as the crushing/screening operations would be considered a minor source of emissions and would have intermittent and seasonal operations. Since only minor amounts of pollution would be generated and corresponding emissions would be widely dispersed before settling upon surrounding soils and vegetation (as described in Section 8.D of this EA), impacts would be minor. Therefore, only minor and temporary effects to terrestrial and aquatic life and habitat would be expected from the proposed crushing/screening operation.

B. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution

Water would be required for dust suppression on the surrounding roadways and areas of operation and for pollution control for equipment operations. However, water use would only cause minor, if any, impacts to water resources in these areas because only a relatively small volume of water would be required. Only minor surface and groundwater quality impacts would be expected because only small amounts of water would be required to control air pollutant emissions and the deposition of air pollutant emissions would be minor (as described in Section 8.F of this EA).

C. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability, and Moisture

The crushing/screening operations would have only minor impacts on geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture of soils. Only minor impacts from deposition of air pollutants on soils would result (as described in Section 8.F of this EA) and only minor amounts of water would be used, as necessary, for pollution control. Thus, only minimal water runoff would occur. Therefore, any effects upon geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture from air pollutant emissions from equipment operations would be minor and short-lived.

D. Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality

Minor impacts would occur on vegetative cover, quality, and quantity because the facility would be a small industrial operation and source of emissions. However, the facility would be a relatively minor source of emissions and the pollutants would be greatly dispersed (as described in Section 8.F of this EA); therefore, deposition on vegetation from the proposed project would be minor. Also, because the water usage would be minimal (as described in Section 8.B of this EA) and the associated soil disturbance from the application of water and water runoff would be minimal (as described in Section 8.C of this EA), corresponding vegetative impacts would be minor.

E. Aesthetics

The crushing/screening operation would be visible and would create noise while operating at the initially proposed site. However, the equipment would be located in an existing pit, and Permit #3824-00 would include conditions to control emissions, including visible emissions, from the operation. The crushing/screening operation would be portable, would operate on an intermittent and seasonal basis, and would be a small industrial source. Therefore, any visual aesthetic impacts would be short-lived and minor.

F. Air Quality

Air quality impacts from the proposed project would be minor because the facility would be relatively small and operate on an intermittent and temporary basis. Permit #3824-00 would include conditions limiting the facility's opacity; require water and water spray bars be available on site and used to ensure compliance with opacity standards; and limit the facility's crushing/screening production.

Further, the Department determined that the crushing/screening facility would be a minor source of emissions as defined under the Title V Operating Permit Program because the source's PTE was below the major source threshold level of 100 tons per year for any regulated pollutant. Pollutant deposition from the facility would be minimal because the pollutants emitted would be well controlled, widely dispersed (from factors such as wind speed and wind direction), and would have minimal deposition on the surrounding area. Therefore, air quality impacts from operating the crushing/screening equipment in this area would be minor.

G. Unique Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources

The Department, in an effort to assess any potential impacts to any unique endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources in the initial proposed area of operation (Section 16, Township 29 North, Range 22 West, in Flathead County, Montana), contacted the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP). Search results concluded there is one known species of concern within the area. The search area, in this case, is defined by the township and range of the proposed site, with an additional one-mile buffer. The species of concern is the lynx.

While the Lynx habitat is delineated as within 0.1 mile from the defined area, these animals may have many miles of potential habitat. Specific effects of operating the crushing/screening operation in this area would be minor since the facility is relatively small in size, and would have only temporary operations in the area. Pollution controls would be required by this permit to ensure that emissions from the crushing/screening operation would be minimal. The Department determined that any effects upon the Lynx would be minor and short-lived.

H. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy

Due to the relatively small size of the facility, the crushing/screening operation would only require small quantities of water, air, and energy for proper operation. Only small quantities of water would be required to control the emissions being generated at the site. In addition, impacts to air resources would be minor because the source is a minor source of emissions, with intermittent and seasonal operations, and because air pollutants generated by the facility would be widely dispersed (as described in Section 8.F of this EA). Energy would be supplied by existing power sources (electric power lines or diesel generators permitted in other permits). Overall, any impacts to water, air, and energy resources would be minor.

I. Historical and Archaeological Sites

The Department contacted the Montana Historical Society - State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) in an effort to identify any historical and/or archaeological sites that may be present in the proposed area of construction/operation. Search results concluded that there are no previously recorded historical or archaeological resources of concern within the area proposed for initial operations. According to the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, there would be a low likelihood of adverse disturbance to any known archaeological or historic site. Therefore, no impacts upon historical or archaeological sites would be expected as a result of operating the proposed crushing/screening plant.

J. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The crushing/screening operation would cause minor cumulative and secondary impacts to the physical and biological aspects of the human environment because the facility would generate relatively small amounts of emissions of PM and PM_{10}. Emissions and noise generated from the equipment would, at most, result in only minor impacts to the area of operations because the crushing/screening plant would be relatively small, seasonal, and temporary. The initial proposed project would be short-term in nature, and have minor cumulative effects upon resource within the area. This facility, in combination with other emissions from Schellinger's equipment operations would not be permitted to exceed 250 tons per year of non-fugitive emissions. Overall, cumulative and secondary impacts to the physical and biological aspects of the human environment would be minor.

9. *The following table summarizes the potential economic and social effects of the proposed project on the human environment. The "no action alternative" was discussed previously.*

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Included
A.	Social Structures and Mores				X		yes
B.	Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				X		yes
C.	Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			X			yes
D	Agricultural or Industrial Production			X			yes
E.	Human Health			X			yes
F.	Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities			X			yes
G	Quantity and Distribution of Employment			X			yes
H.	Distribution of Population				X		yes
I.	Demands for Government Services			X			yes
J.	Industrial and Commercial Activity			X			yes
K.	Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals			X			yes
L.	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			yes

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS: The following comments have been prepared by the Department.

A. Social Structures and Mores

The crushing/screening operation would cause no disruption to the social structures and mores in the area because the source would be a minor industrial source of emissions, and would only have temporary and intermittent operations. Further, the facility would be required to operate according to the conditions that would be placed in Permit #3824-00, which would limit the effects to social structures and mores.

B. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

The cultural uniqueness and diversity of this area would not be impacted by the proposed crushing/screening operation because the facility would be a portable source, with seasonal and intermittent operations, only.

C. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

The crushing/screening operations would have little, if any, impact on the local and state tax base and tax revenue because the facility would be a minor industrial source of emissions and would have seasonal and intermittent operations. Only minor impacts to the local and state tax base and revenue could be expected from the employees and facility production. Furthermore, the impacts to local tax base and revenue would be minor because the source would be portable and the money generated for taxes would be widespread.

D. Agricultural or Industrial Production

The crushing/screening operations would have only a minor impact on local industrial production since the facility would be a minor source of aggregate production and air emissions, by industrial standards. Because minimal deposition of air pollutants would occur on the surrounding land (as described in Section 8.F of this EA), only minor and temporary effects on the surrounding vegetation (i.e. agricultural production) would occur. In addition, the facility operations would be small and temporary in nature and would be permitted with operational conditions and limitations that would minimize impacts upon the surrounding area.

E. Human Health

Permit #3824-00 would incorporate conditions to ensure that the crushing/screening facility would be operated in compliance with all applicable air quality rules and standards. These rules and standards are designed to be protective of human health. As described in Section 8.F. of this EA, the air emissions from this facility would be minimized by the use of water spray and other process limits that would be required by Permit #3824-00. Also, the facility would be operating on a temporary basis and pollutants would disperse from the ventilation of emissions at this site (see Section 8.F of this EA). Therefore, only minor impacts would be expected on human health from the proposed crushing/screening facility.

F. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

There are no known access routes to recreational or wilderness activities near the site. Noise from the facility would be minimal because the facility would be small. Also, the facility would operate on a seasonal and intermittent basis and would be a relatively minor industrial source of emissions. Therefore, any changes in the quality of recreational and wilderness activities created by operating the equipment at this site would be expected to be minor and intermittent.

G. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

The portable crushing/screening operation would be relatively small, would have seasonal and intermittent operations, and would continue to require the employees currently employed. Therefore, only a minor effect upon the quantity and distribution of employment in this area would be expected.

H. Distribution of Population

The portable crushing/screening operation would be small and would continue to require the same number of employees currently employed. No individuals would be expected to permanently relocate to this area of operation as a result of operating the crushing/screening facility. Therefore, the crushing/screening facility would not impact the normal population distribution in the initial area of operation or any future operating site.

I. Demands of Government Services

Minor increases would be seen in traffic on existing roadways in the area while the crushing/screening operation is in progress. In addition, government services would be required for acquiring the appropriate permits for the proposed project and to verify compliance with the permits that would be issued. However, demands for government services would be minor, due to the relatively small size and seasonal nature of the crushing/screening facility.

J. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The crushing/screening operation would represent only a minor increase in the industrial activity in the proposed area of operation because the source would be a relatively small industrial source that would be portable and temporary in nature. No additional industrial or commercial activity would be expected as a result of the proposed operation.

K. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

Schellinger would be allowed, by Permit #3824-00, to operate in areas designated by EPA as attainment or unclassified for ambient air quality. An Addendum was obtained to operate in or within 10 km of a PM_{10} nonattainment area. Permit #3824-00 would contain production and opacity limits for protecting air quality and to keep facility emissions in compliance with any applicable ambient air quality standards, as a locally adopted environmental plan or goal for operating at this proposed site. Because the facility would be a small and portable source and would have intermittent and seasonal operations, any impacts from the facility would be minor and short-lived.

L. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The crushing/screening operations would only cause minor cumulative and secondary impacts to the social and economic aspects of the human environment in the immediate area of operation because the source would be a portable and temporary source. Further, no other industrial operations are expected to result from the permitting of this facility. Minor increases in traffic would have minor effects on local traffic in the immediate area. Because the source is relatively small and temporary, only minor economic impacts to the local economy would be expected from operating the facility. Further, this facility may be operated in conjunction with other equipment owned and operated by Schellinger, but any cumulative impacts upon the social and economic aspects of the human environment would be minor and short-lived. Thus, only minor and temporary cumulative effects would result to the local economy.

Recommendation: An EIS is not required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: All potential effects resulting from construction and operation of the proposed facility are minor; therefore, an EIS is not required.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: Montana Department of Environmental Quality - Permitting and Compliance Division (Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau); Montana Natural Heritage Program; and the State Historic Preservation Office (Montana Historical Society).

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Montana Department of Environmental Quality (Air Resources Management Bureau); Montana State Historic Preservation Office (Montana Historical Society), and Montana Natural Heritage Program.

EA prepared by: Christine Weaver
Date: May 12, 2006