

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

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

Issued To: ConocoPhillips Pipeline Company
2330 5th Ave South
Billings, MT 59101

Air Quality Permit Number: 2907-04

Preliminary Determination Issued: August 25, 2006

Department Decision Issued:

Permit Final:

1. *Legal Description of Site:* This facility is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, Township 10 North, Range 3 West, in Lewis and Clark County, Montana.
2. *Description of Project:* ConocoPhillips submitted an application on June 28, 2006 for the following:
 - the addition of a Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) System to remediate the gasoline remaining in the soil after pump & treat;
 - correcting the permit to reflect the fact that ConocoPhillips never installed the 2-Bay Truck Loading Rack and thermal oxidizer permitted in 2002 in Montana Air Quality Permit (MAQP) #2907-01; and
 - revising the throughput limits for Truck Loading Racks and adding limits for the Railcar Loading Racks to maintain plant-wide emissions below the Prevention of Significant Deterioration threshold of 250 tons per year (tpy) of volatile organic compound (VOC).
3. *Objectives of Project:* to allow installation of the gasoline soil vapor extraction remediation process, and correct the existing permits to reflect the current operating conditions.
4. *Alternatives Considered:* In addition to the proposed action, the Department also considered the “no-action” alternative. The “no-action” alternative would deny issuance of the air quality preconstruction permit to the proposed facility. However, the Department does not consider the “no-action” alternative to be appropriate because ConocoPhillips demonstrated compliance with all applicable rules and regulations as required for permit issuance. Therefore, the “no-action” alternative was eliminated from further consideration.
5. *A Listing of Mitigation, Stipulations, and Other Controls:* A list of enforceable conditions, including a BACT analysis, would be included in Permit #2907-04.
6. *Regulatory Effects on Private Property:* The Department considered alternatives to the conditions imposed in this permit as part of the permit development. The Department determined that 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.

7. 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 Resources				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

No impacts on terrestrial or aquatic life and habitats would be expected from the proposed project, because although the emissions from the facility would slightly increase temporarily, the project will occur at an existing industrialized facility. The Department determined that there will be no discernible impact on terrestrial and aquatic life due to the relatively small amount of pollutants emitted (see Section 7.F of this EA). No habitats would be directly impacted, since the project will occur on existing industrial land that is currently gravel-based.

B. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

Only minor impacts would be expected on water quality, quantity, and distribution from the proposed project because of the relatively small size of the project. While the facility would have a temporary increase in air pollutants, the Department determined that any impacts from the increase in emissions would not be discernible due to the relatively small amount of pollutants emitted from the project (see Section 7.F of this EA). The project is not expected to impact water quality, quantity, or distribution because there is no surface water on the site. The SVE System will remove some water from the soil vapor space; however, it is not expected to remove any significant amount. Overall, any impacts to water quality, quantity, and distribution would be minor.

C. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

Minor impacts would occur on the geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture from the proposed project. The SVE system is designed to remove gasoline remaining in the soil vapor space via 11 extraction wells, and exhaust it into the air. After conducting pump & treat remediation since the accidental release of 52,000 gallons of gasoline in the year 2000, there is estimated to be 14 – 23.7 tons of gasoline remaining in the soil. Overall the soil quality will be improved, since the applicant expects to extract between 14 and 23.7 tons per year of gasoline. The chance of pollutant emissions or deposition impacting the geology and soil in the areas surrounding the site would be minor due to the relatively small amount of pollutants emitted (see Section 7.F of this EA) from the project. Overall, any impacts to the geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture would be minor.

D. Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality

There will be no impact on vegetation cover quantity, since the SVE system will be installed within a gravel area in an industrialized site. The Department determined that the chance of emissions or deposition of pollutants from this project impacting the vegetation in the areas surrounding the site would be insignificant due to the relatively small amount of pollutants emitted (see Section 7.F of this EA) from the project. Overall, there will be no discernible impacts to vegetation cover, quantity, and quality.

E. Aesthetics

No impact would result on the aesthetics of the area because the project is relatively small and is occurring at an existing facility in the middle of an industrialized area.

F. Air Quality

The air quality of the area would realize minor temporary impacts from the proposed project because the SVE system would emit relatively small amounts of VOC and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). The maximum amount of emissions, based on conservative engineering evaluations from field testing, would initially be 23.7 tpy VOC and 1.3 tpy HAPs, with declining emissions as the soil gas is remediated. Since the emissions from the proposed project are expected to exhibit good dispersion characteristics, the Department determined that emissions from the source will not cause or contribute to a violation of any ambient air quality standard. Therefore, any impacts to air quality from the proposed facility would be minor.

G. Unique Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources

This permitting action should not have an impact on terrestrial and aquatic life and/or their habitat; therefore, it is extremely unlikely that unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species would experience any discernible impacts. In addition, the Department is not aware of any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species in the area surrounding the facility, particularly since the area in which the facility resides has been used for industrial purposes for greater than 50 years.

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

The proposed project would have impacts on the demands on the environmental resources of air and water because the facility would be a source of air pollutants. However, any impacts on the environmental resources would be minor because the facility's potential to emit would be relatively small by industrial standards, and the project is occurring within a previously developed industrial site. The proposed project would have a minor impact on the demand for energy due to increase in electrical demand for powering the vacuum pump. Overall, any impacts on the demands on the environmental resources of air, water, and energy would be minor.

I. Historical and Archaeological Sites

The proposed project would not disturb a greater land surface than has already been occupied by the ConocoPhillips-Helena terminal. To the best of the Department's knowledge there is no historical or archeological sites in this area. Therefore, no impacts to any historical and archaeological sites are anticipated.

J. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Overall, the cumulative and secondary impacts on the physical and biological aspects of the human environment in the immediate area would be minor due to the relatively small size of the project. Potential emissions from the facility would be relatively small by industrial standards. The Department expects this facility to operate in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations outlined in Permit #2907-04.

8. *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

B. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

The proposed project would not cause a disruption to any native or traditional lifestyles or communities (social structures or mores) or cultural uniqueness and diversity in the area, because the proposed project would take place at an existing site, in an industrial area. The proposed project would not change the predominant use of the surrounding area and the facility would be relatively small by industrial standards.

C. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

The proposed project would result in minor, if any, impacts to the local and state tax base and tax revenue because the proposed facility will be unmanned. In addition, only extremely minor amounts of construction would be needed to complete the project.

D. Agricultural or Industrial Production

The site is existing, and the SVE Extraction system does not impact production. There will be no impact on agricultural or industrial production.

E. Human Health

The proposed project would result in only minor, if any, impacts to human health because of the relatively small quantity of potential emissions. As explained in Section 7.F of this EA, the Department determined that the proposed project, permitted by Permit #2907-04, would comply with all applicable air quality rules, regulations, and standards, which are designed to be protective of human health.

F. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The proposed project would not have any impacts on access to recreational and wilderness activities because of the relatively small size of the facility and the fact that the project is at an existing industrial facility. The proposed project would not have impacts on the quality of recreational and wilderness activities in the area.

G. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

The proposed project would not affect the quantity and distribution of employment because the SVE system does not require additional personnel.

H. Distribution of Population

The proposed project would not affect distribution of population in the area because the project will not require additional personnel.

I. Demands for Government Services

There would be minor impacts on demands of government services because additional time would be required by government agencies to issue Permit #2907-04 and to monitor compliance with applicable rules and standards. Overall, any impacts on the demands for government services would be minor.

J. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The project should not cause any change in industrial or commercial activity.

K. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

The Department is not aware of any locally adopted environmental plans and goals affected by issuing Permit #2907-04. The state standards would protect the proposed site and the environment surrounding the site.

L. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Overall, cumulative and secondary impacts from the proposed project would be minor due to the small size of the project. The Department would not expect other industries to be impacted by the proposed project and the Department believes that this facility could be expected to operate in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations as would be outlined in Permit #2907-04.

Recommendation: No EIS is required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: The current permitting action is for the installation and operation of a soil vapor extraction system to remediate gasoline remaining in the soil from a release in 2000. Permit #2907-04 would include conditions and limitations to ensure the

facility would operate in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. In addition, there are no significant impacts associated with this proposal.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: Montana Historical Society – State Historic Preservation Office, Natural Resource Information System – Montana Natural Heritage Program

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Department of Environmental Quality – Air Resources Management Bureau

Permit Analysis Prepared By: Christine Weaver

Date: July 24, 2006