



Montana Department of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov)  
March 25, 2008

Ron Anderson, Lincoln County Sanitarian, 418 Mineral Ave., Libby, Mt 59923  
Charles Black, MD, Lincoln County Health Officer, 1214 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Libby, MT 59923  
Lincoln County Commissioners, 512 California Ave., Libby, MT 59923-1942  
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 attached checklist EA is for the disposal of septage and portable toilet/vault toilet type waste in Lincoln 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](mailto:renhill@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

Renai Hill  
Environmental Science Specialist  
Waste & Underground Tank Management Bureau

**RECEIVED**

MAR 26 2008

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

Enclosure: Checklist EA: Tobacco Valley Septic Service Land Application Site

**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. Bo Dee Pitman of TOBACCO VALLEY SEPTIC SERVICE a Montana Septic Tank Pumpers License (STP License S-1007) has submitted a New Disposal Site Application. TOBACCO VALLEY SEPTIC SERVICE is located in Lincoln County at 767 Pomeroy Road, Eureka, MT and conducts business only in Lincoln County.

The purpose of this checklist Environmental Assessment (EA) is to document environmental issues related to the disposal of septage and portable toilet/vault toilet waste on the John Phillip Hodges Property located in Lincoln County in Section 2, T35N, R26W.

**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 **40,000**
- Portable Toilet/Vault Toilet Type Waste – estimated total gal/year **8,000**
- 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?
<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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%) 3%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depth to ground water greater than 6-feet? 150 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: $AAR = 20/0.0026 = 7,692$ gal/acre for septage and the $AAR = 20/0.0052 = 3,846$ for PT/VT.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crop/yield information provided? Alfalfa @ 20#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? Disk w/tractor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site access control noted? Cattle gates
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VAPR method noted?
<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 approved. The land application 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 checklist 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: March 20, 2008

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

RESOURCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT <sup>1</sup>					
	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				✓		

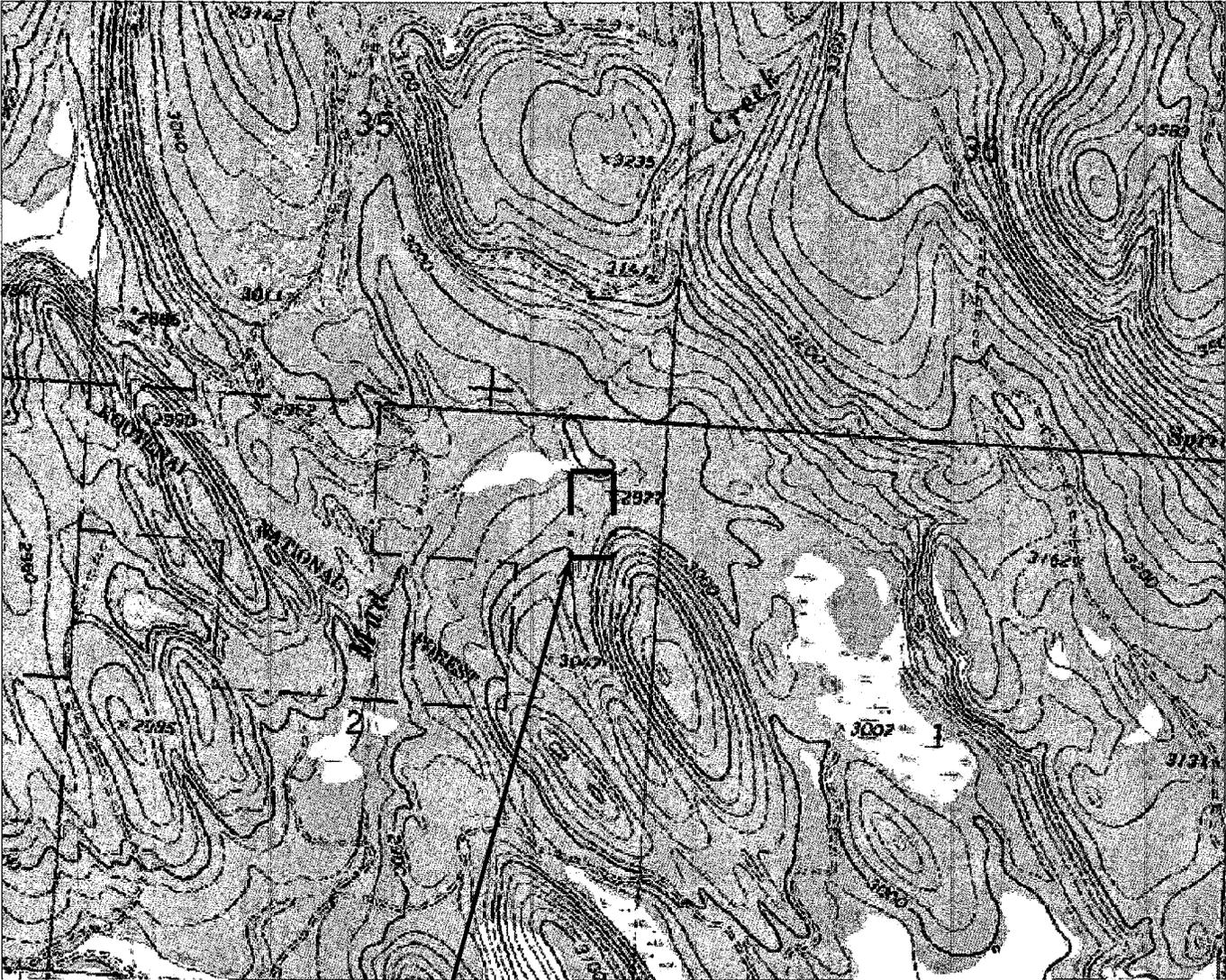
<sup>1</sup> CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: None for the Proposed Project, because compliance with the Montana Cesspool, Septic Tank, and Privy Cleaners Act mitigates impacts on human health and the environment and no other projects affect the area.

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

RESOURCE	LEVEL OF IMPACT <sup>1</sup>					
	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				✓		

<sup>1</sup> 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: TOBACCO VALLEY SEPTIC SERVICE  
STP License #S-1007  
Land Application Site Location  
Lincoln County – John Phillip Hodges Property  
Sections 2, T35N, R26W**



**Approximate land application site boundary**