

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER PROTECTION BUREAU
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, Montana 59620-0901
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) for Major Modification of MPDES Permit

Division/Bureau: Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, Permit Section

Project or Application: Stimson Lumber Company Bonner, MT, major modification of MPDES permit number **MT0000205**

Description of Project: This is a major modification of MPDES permit MT0000205 (Permit) for Outfalls 002 and 003. The Permit regulates discharge to the Blackfoot River of treated domestic wastewater from Outfalls 002 and 003 and the discharge of boiler blowdown, non-contact cooling water, yard runoff water, and stormwater from the industrial wastewater outfall to the Blackfoot River (Outfall 001A).

This Permit modification includes: 1) termination of Outfall 002 to the Blackfoot River and 2) extension of the compliance date for adherence to the final total residual chlorine maximum daily limit of 0.019 mg/L to midnight October 31, 2011.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal:

Termination of Outfall 002 - Assures removal of discharge of up to 18,000 gallons per day of treated domestic wastewater to the Blackfoot River.

Extension of the compliance date – The package treatment plant that discharges at Outfall 003 has been shut down since September 2007. To assure that the Permittee can select, engineer, install, and optimize disinfection capabilities that will meet the final total residual chlorine maximum daily limit of 0.019 mg/L, the date of final compliance is extended to October 31, 2011. This will serve to ensure adequate treatment of industrial and domestic wastewater and stormwater to protect beneficial uses before discharging to state waters.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider:

None

Listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by this or another government agency:

See Fact Sheet

Affected Environment and Effects from the Proposed Project:

PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT		
Rank	Consideration	Remarks
N	1. SOIL SUITABILITY, TOPOGRAPHIC AND/OR GEOLOGIC CONSTRAINTS (soil moisture, unstable soils or geologic conditions, steep slopes, erosion potential, subsidence potential, seismic activity)	Facility has been in place over 100 years with no evidence of such problems.
N	2. HAZARDOUS FACILITIES (power lines, hazardous waste sites, distances from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petroleum storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities and propane tanks)	This facility is considered to be a small quantity generator of hazardous waste, EPA ID number MTD058858721, regulated under RCRA.
N	3. AIR QUALITY (effects to, or from project, dust, odors, emissions)	Facility is permitted under the Montana Air Quality permitting program MAQP #2086 and Title V. Air Quality Operating Permit OP-2086.
B	4. GROUNDWATER RESOURCES & AQUIFERS (quality/nondegradation, quantity/reliability, distribution, uses/rights, number of aquifers, mixing zones)	This permit renewal includes requirements to investigate potential groundwater impacts at the site, focusing on identifying the need for specifically permitting groundwater discharges.
B	5. SURFACE WATER RESOURCES (quality/nondegradation, quantity/reliability, distribution, uses/rights, storm water controls, source of community supply, community treatment, mixing zones)	This modification eliminates the discharge of up to 18,000 gallons per day of treated domestic wastewater to the Blackfoot River.
B	6. VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND HABITATS, INCLUDING FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES (threatened, endangered, sensitive species, prime habitat, population stability, potential for human wildlife conflicts, effectiveness of post-disturbance plans)	The permit implements the water quality standards in effect for B1 waters to protect beneficial uses.
B	7. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (biologic, topographic, wetlands (within one mile), floodplains (within one mile), scenic rivers, natural resource areas, etc.)	Wetlands and flood plains exist within one mile of discharge point.
B	8. LAND USE (waste disposal, agricultural lands [grazing, cropland, forest lands, prime farmland], recreational lands [waterways, parks, playgrounds, open space, federal lands), access, commercial and industrial facilities [production & activity, growth or decline], growth, land-use change, development activity)	The permit implements the water quality standards in effect for B1 waters to protect beneficial uses.
N	9. HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, & ARCHEOLOGICAL (sites, facilities, uniqueness, diversity)	
N	10. AESTHETICS (visual quality, nuisances, odors, noise)	.

Key to Rank

NA	Not applicable	N	No effects
B	Potentially beneficial effects	A	Potentially adverse effects
M	Corrective action required required	P	Additional permits will be

N	11. DEMANDS ON OR CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES INCLUDING LAND, WATER, AIR, OR ENERGY USE (need for new or upgraded energy sources, potential for recycling, etc.) {See (4), (5), and (8).}	
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Impacts on the Human Population		
Rank	Consideration	Remarks
N	12. CHANGES IN DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS (population quantity, distribution and density, rate of change)	
N	13. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS (quality, quantity and affordability)	
N	14. POTENTIAL FOR DISPLACEMENT OR RELOCATION OF BUSINESS OR RESIDENTS	
B	15. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY (medical services and facilities, police, fire protection and hazards [see (2)], emergency medical services [see (8), LAND USE for waste disposal])	Increased disinfection requirements will protect public health for secondary recreational uses. This modification eliminates the discharge of up to 18,000 gallons per day of treated domestic wastewater to the Blackfoot River.
N	16. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME PATTERNS (quantity and distribution of employment, economic impact)	
N	17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND REVENUES	
N	18. EFFECTS ON SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES (social conventions/standards of social conduct), DEMANDS ON SOCIAL SERVICES (law enforcement, educational facilities [libraries, schools, colleges, universities], welfare, etc.)	
N	19. TRANSPORTATION NETWORK (condition and use of roads, traffic flow conflicts, rail, airport compatibility, etc.)	
N	20. CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, OR PLANS (conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning or capital improvement plans)	

Key to Rank			
NA	Not applicable	N	No effects
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N	<p>21. REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS <i>(Are we regulating pursuant to a police power? Does the Agency action restrict the use of the property beyond the minimum necessary to achieve compliance with the Act? What are the costs of such additional restrictions resulting from proposed permit conditions? Are there other, less restrictive ways of achieving the same goal? See your assigned legal counsel for assistance preparing this section. [See the Private Property Assessment Act checklist accompanying this permit for details.]</i></p>	
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<u>Key to Rank</u>			
NA	Not applicable	N	No effects
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PRIVATE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT ACT CHECKLIST***Does the proposed agency action have takings implications under the Private Property Assessment Act?****SM: Rev.1*

Query	YES/NO	Remarks/Justification
1. <i>Does the action pertain to land or water management or environmental regulation affecting private real property or water rights?</i>	No	
2. <i>Does the action result in either a permanent or indefinite physical occupation of private property?</i>	No	
3. <i>Does the action deprive the owner of all economically viable uses of the property?</i>	No	
4. <i>Does the action deny a fundamental attribute of ownership?</i>	No	
5. <i>Does the action require a property owner to dedicate a portion of property or to grant an easement?</i>	No	<i>(If NO, then skip to (6).)</i>
a. <i>Is there a reasonable, specific connection between the government requirement and legitimate state interests?</i>	NA	
b. <i>Is the government requirement roughly proportional to the impact of the proposed use of the property?</i>	NA	
6. <i>Does the action have a severe impact on the value of the property?</i>	No	
7. <i>Does the action damage the property by causing some physical disturbance with respect to the property in excess of that sustained by the public generally?</i>	No	<i>(If NO, then skip to (8).)</i>
a. <i>Is the impact of government action direct, peculiar, and significant?</i>	NA	
b. <i>Has government action resulted in the property becoming practically inaccessible, waterlogged, or flooded?</i>	NA	
c. <i>Has government action diminished property values by more than 30% and necessitated the physical taking of adjacent property or property across a public way from the property in question?</i>	NA	
8. <i>Do taking or damaging implications exist?</i> ⁽¹⁾ <i>Taking or damaging implications exist if the answer to questions 5a or 5b is NO, or if the answer to any other question is YES.</i>	No	

(1) *If taking or damaging implications exist the agency must comply with § 5 of the Private Property Assessment Act, to include the preparation of a taking or damaging impact assessment. Normally, the*

preparation of an impact assessment will require consultation with agency legal staff.

Other groups or governmental agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

None

Public Involvement:

30-day comment period

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA:

State of Montana, DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau

Summary of Issues:

See Fact Sheet

Summary of Potential Effects:

See Fact Sheet

Cumulative Effects:

None

Recommendation:

Grant the permit reissue

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:

Prepare an EIS

Prepare a more detailed EA

No further analysis

EA prepared by: Melee K. Valett

Date: June 26, 2009

Bureau Check-off

AWMB _____

CSB _____

EMB _____

IEMB _____

WPB X

Other _____

Approved by:

Jenny Chambers, Chief
Water Protection Bureau

Date

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