

**SUPPLEMENT TO:
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
September 23, 2009**

Project Name: Neuman Pond Site

Proponent: Brent Neuman

Type and Purpose of Action: The proponent has applied for an amendment to Opencut Permit #NBC-001 that if approved, would extend the date of reclamation to December, 2020 (from April, 2009) and add 4 acres to the main permit area for facility level disturbance. The current permit provides for a total of 4 acres – and includes mining and facility. This amendment would increase the total acreage to 8. Other operational and reclamation plans will remain the same as originally proposed.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation: The affected areas will be reclaimed to the same post-mine land uses as described in the original documents and those new areas upon which topsoil and materials are stockpiled will be reclaimed to pasture. The extended date of reclamation will prolong the impacts. However, the proponent is required to reclaim areas as they are no longer need for mining and related purposes and will be deepening and sloping the pond to the required standards as the operation progresses. Areas not part of the pond will be regraded, topsoiled and seeded. Therefore the extent of physical impacts should not be cumulative; only the continuum of time. The Opencut Mining Act and promulgated rules and regulations require the reclamation and the increased reclamation bond will ensure the state has sufficient money to reclaim the site should the operator be unable or unwilling to do so. The impacts from this amendment are expected to be similar to those identified and analyzed in the original May 24, 2005 Environmental Assessment and are considered insignificant because of the aforementioned mitigation.

Prepared by: Steve Welch

Approved by:

Chris Cronin

Date:

9/23/2009