



PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION  
ON PERMIT APPLICATION

Date of Mailing: October 7, 2010

Name of Applicant: Fike Crushing, Inc.

Source: Portable Crushing and Screening Operation

Proposed Action: The Department of Environmental Quality (Department) proposes to issue a permit, with conditions, to the above-named applicant. The application was assigned Montana Air Quality Permit Application Number 2559-02.

Proposed Conditions: See attached.

Public Comment: Any member of the public desiring to comment must submit such comments in writing to the Air Resources Management Bureau (Bureau) of the Department at the above address. Comments may address the Department's analysis and determination, or the information submitted in the application. In order to be considered, comments on this Preliminary Determination are due by October 22, 2010. Copies of the application and the Department's analysis may be inspected at the Bureau's office in Helena. For more information, you may contact the Department.

Departmental Action: The Department intends to make a decision on the application after expiration of the Public Comment period described above. A copy of the decision may be obtained at the above address. The permit shall become final on the date stated in the Department's Decision on this permit, unless an appeal is filed with the Board of Environmental Review (Board).

Procedures for Appeal: Any person jointly or severally adversely affected by the final action may request a hearing before the Board. Any appeal must be filed by the date stated in the Department's Decision on this permit. The request for a hearing shall contain an affidavit setting forth the grounds for the request. Any hearing will be held under the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedures Act. Submit requests for a hearing in triplicate to: Chairman, Board of Environmental Review, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620.

For the Department,

Vickie Walsh  
Air Permitting Program Supervisor  
Air Resources Management Bureau  
(406) 444-3490

Shawn Juers  
Environmental Engineer  
Air Resources Management Bureau  
(406) 444-2049

VW:SJ  
Enclosures

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**Permitting and Compliance Division**  
**Air Resources Management Bureau**  
**P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620**  
**(406) 444-3490**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**

*Issued To:* Fike Crushing, Inc.  
524 Harvey Avenue  
Harvey, ND 58341

*Montana Air Quality Permit number:* 2559-02

*Preliminary Determination Issued:* October 7, 2010

*Department Decision Issued:*

*Permit Final:*

1. *Legal Description of Site:* The home pit location for Fike's crushing and screening operation is Section 7, Township 24 North, Range 60 East, in Richland County, Montana.
2. *Description of Project:* Fike plans to operate a portable crushing and screening plant, including a diesel fired generator engine.
3. *Objectives of Project:* The objective of the project is to crush and sort sand and gravel-like material for various uses.
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 Fike has 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 MAQP #2559-02.
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			XX			Yes
B	Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution			XX			Yes
C	Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture			XX			Yes
D	Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality			XX			Yes
E	Aesthetics			XX			Yes
F	Air Quality			XX			Yes
G	Unique Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources			XX			Yes
H	Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy			XX			Yes
I	Historical and Archaeological Sites			XX			Yes
J	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			XX			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

The net change in allowable emissions which would be present in issuing MAQP #2559-02 is presented below. A large reduction in allowable emissions of particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen, with a relatively small increase in allowable emissions of carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds (VOC), and oxides of sulfur (SO<sub>x</sub>) would be present. The Department would expect minor, if any, discernable effect on terrestrial and aquatic life and habitats.

MAQP#	PM	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	VOC	SO <sub>x</sub>
2559-02	45.18	44.72	24.31	9.15	7.46
2559-01	107.38	99.23	21.38	7.91	6.56
<b>Net Change:</b>	<b>-62.2</b>	<b>-54.51</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>0.9</b>

B. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

The portable operation would continue to be required to use water and spray bars to control particulate matter emissions from equipment operations and the general plant area. The Department would expect minor, if any, effects to water quality, quantity, and distribution would occur as a result of the issuance of MAQP #2559-02.

C. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

The portable operation would continue to be required to use water and spray bars to control particulate matter emissions from equipment operations and the general plant area. Operations would normally occur in those areas designated for such uses, such as areas permitted for open cut operations. Therefore, the Department would expect minor effects to geology, soil quality, stability, and moisture as a result of the issuance of MAQP #2559-02.

D. Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality

MAQP #2559-02 would contain opacity requirements and require use of the application of water as needed to limit the emissions of particulate matter. As a result of the controls which would limit emissions as required by MAQP #2559-02, and the dispersion of those emissions, the Department would expect minor effects to vegetation cover, quantity, and quality.

E. Aesthetics

As an existing permitted source, the Department would not expect any more than a minor change in effects to aesthetics as a result of issuing MAQP #2559-02.

F. Air Quality

As presented in Section 7A above, a large reduction in allowable emissions of PM and NO<sub>x</sub>, with a relatively small increase in allowable emissions of CO, VOC, and SO<sub>x</sub> would be present. The Department would not expect any more than a minor impact to air quality as a result of issuing MAQP #2559-02.

G. Unique Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources

As presented in Section 7.A above, a large reduction in allowable emissions of PM and NO<sub>x</sub>, with a relatively small increase in allowable emissions of CO, VOC, and SO<sub>x</sub> would be present. The net change in allowable emissions associated with issuance of MAQP #2559-02 would likely reduce the effects to unique endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources. The Department would expect minor, if any, discernable effects to endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources as a result of issuance of MAQP #2559-02.

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

The portable operation would continue to be required to utilize water to control particulate matter emissions and would continue to use a diesel fired generator engine to provide on-site electricity. As previously discussed, this permitting action would result in a large net reduction of PM and NO<sub>x</sub>, with increases in allowable emissions of CO, VOC, and SO<sub>x</sub> being less than de minimis levels. The Department, in issuing MAQP #2559-02, would expect any effect on the demands of environmental resources of water, air, and energy to be minor, if any.

I. Historical and Archaeological Sites

The source would be permitted to operate with an initial location which has been the home pit location for this source. Therefore, the Department would not expect any effects to historical and archeological sites as a result of issuance of MAQP #2559-02. The source would continue to be permitted as a portable source, and these portable operations typically operate with an area designated for such uses, such as areas permitted for open cut operations. Therefore, in considering the portable nature of the facility, the Department would expect minor, if any, effect to historical and archaeological sites as a result of this permitting action.

J. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The Department would expect no more than a minor effect to any of the individual physical and biological considerations above. Cumulatively and secondary impacts to physical and biological would be expected to be minor.

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			XX			Yes
B	Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity			XX			Yes
C	Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			XX			Yes
D	Agricultural or Industrial Production			XX			Yes
E	Human Health			XX			Yes
F	Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities			XX			Yes
G	Quantity and Distribution of Employment			XX			Yes
H	Distribution of Population			XX			Yes
I	Demands for Government Services			XX			Yes
J	Industrial and Commercial Activity			XX			Yes
K	Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals			XX			Yes
L	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			XX			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
- C. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

The Department would expect minor, if any, effects to these categories as a result of issuance of MAQP #2559-02. This permitting action updates the permit for an already permitted source.

- D. Agricultural or Industrial Production

MAQP #2559-02 would contain opacity requirements and Fike would be required to use water, spray bars, and/or chemical dust suppressant as needed to maintain compliance with those opacity requirements. These conditions limit the amount of particulate matter that would be expected to dissipate on surrounding vegetation.

- E. Human Health

MAQP #2559-02 would contain conditions and limitations derived from rules designed to protect human health. The Department would expect minor effects to Human Health.

- F. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities
- G. Quantity and Distribution of Employment
- H. Distribution of Population

The Department would expect minor, if any, effects to these categories as a result of issuance of MAQP #2559-02. This permitting action updates the permit for an already permitted source.

I. Demands for Government Services

In consideration of new NAAQS for NO<sub>2</sub>, MAQP #2559-02 would contain stack height requirements and limits on NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Changes to demands for government services would be expected to be minor.

J. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The Department would expect minor, if any, effects as a result of issuance of MAQP #2559-02. This permitting action updates the permit for an already permitted source.

K. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

The Department is not aware of any locally adopted environmental plans and goals in which issuance of MAQP #2559-02 would conflict with. The MAQP is derived from rules designed to protect human health.

L. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The Department found no more than minor effects in the individual considerations above. Collectively, the Department would expect no more than a minor effect to cumulative and secondary impacts associated with issuance of MAQP #2559-02.

Recommendation: No Environmental Impact Statement (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 construction and operation of a portable crushing and screening operation. MAQP #2559-02 includes conditions and limitations to ensure the facility will 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, Montana Historical Society – State Historic Preservation Office, Natural Resource Information System – Montana Natural Heritage Program

EA prepared by: Shawn Juers

Date: September 28, 2010