Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Brian Schweitzer, Governor
Richard H. Opper, Director

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October 20, 2010

Dear Reader:

Jesson Rock-N-Ranch (Jesson) applied for an amendment to Operating Permit 00176 on August 13, 2010 for an additional 20 acres with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. The additional acreage is on private land.

Jesson operates a rock picking operation located approximately 8 miles west of Livingston, Montana, on Highway 10W. Jesson uses a front end loader to pick up rock and boulders for landscaping and masonry purposes and is currently permitted to disturb 200 acres. The proposed amendment would add 20 acres to the area permitted for disturbance.

A Draft CEA was issued on September 20, 2010 which evaluated the potential impacts from these operations. The Draft CEA addressed issues and concerns raised during public involvement and from agency scoping. No comments were received on the Draft CEA.

The agency has decided to approve the amendment to the permit as proposed contingent on posting a total reclamation bond in the amount of $15,000. Jesson currently has a bond in the amount of $13,690. Additional bond in the amount of $1,310 will need to be submitted.

Following are the approved permit conditions:

Permit Area: 220 acres over the life of the permit
Permitted Disturbance: 220 acres
Bonded Acres: 220 acres
Bond: $15,000

Permitted Disturbance: A total of 220 acres would be permitted to be disturbed over the life of the mine, estimated to be fifty years. This could change over time as acreage to be disturbed could be added through amendment or revisions after environmental analysis. While 220 acres are permitted to be disturbed over the life of the permit, concurrent reclamation will limit the total of disturbed and unreclaimed acres at any one time.

Warren D. McCullough — 10/20/10

Warren D. McCullough, Chief
Environmental Management Bureau

Date

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