



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Brian Schweitzer, Governor
Richard H. Opper, Director

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June 29, 2012

Warren Transport
Rocky Mtn Power
Koyama Farms
Floyd Bastram
Alex Uffelman
Director Office, DNRC
Environmental Quality Council
Documents Section, State Library
Jim Skinner, Dept. of Transportation

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 17.4.609, the following Environmental Assessment has been prepared by the Department of Environmental Quality concerning YCI Recycling and Salvage, a proposed private motor vehicle wrecking facility in Hardin, Montana.

The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Environmental Assessment will be circulated for a period of **30 days** at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you wish to comment on this proposed action, please do so in writing, within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

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Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program
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Enc: Environmental Assessment for YCI Recycling and Salvage, Hardin, MT

c:file

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality licenses and regulates motor vehicle wrecking facilities under the authority of the Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Act (75-10-501, MCA) and Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM 17.50.201).

Division/Bureau: Permitting & Compliance \ Waste and Underground Tank Management \ Solid Waste Program \ Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Program

General Comments

To be eligible for licensing, a proposed wrecking facility must:

- 1) Be in compliance with all existing zoning ordinances on the date the license application is submitted to the department.
- 2) Be capable of being shielded from view of any existing public road. If the license application is approved, the applicant must construct all necessary shielding prior to the issuance of the license and commencement of operation at the facility.
- 3) Not create any adverse environmental impacts.

Project or Application: YCI Recycling & Salvage, a Montana firm, has proposed a private Motor Vehicle Wrecking facility in Big Horn County.

Description of Project: Located at 1 Sugar Factory Road, Hardin, Montana. The legal description of the proposed facility is SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 12, Township 1 South, Range 33 East, and is approximately 20 acres in size (Lot 3).

Purpose of Proposal: By obtaining a motor vehicle wrecking facility license, the applicant will be allowed to: (1) Buy, sell, or deal in four or more vehicles per year of a type required to be licensed, for the purpose of wrecking, dismantling, disassembling, or substantially altering the form of the motor vehicle, (2) Buy or sell component parts, in whole or in part, and deal in second-hand junk vehicles, (3) Purchase wrecked vehicles from insurance companies. Insurance companies are required by state law to sell junk vehicles only to licensed motor vehicle wrecking facilities. This business if licensed will provide a commercial source of automotive parts at a cost savings to the consumer, and (4) this business will also recycle all the ferrous metals and non-ferrous metals that were not sold to the general public. Recycling metals will conserve energy and natural resources otherwise used to manufacture new automotive parts.

Recommendation:

The department has made the preliminary determination that the applicant is in compliance with the existing zoning ordinances as of the date of the submittal of the application and can effectively shield the proposed facility from all public roads in the area.

The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to determine if the proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility can be licensed and operated without posing significant adverse environmental impacts by seeking public input.

If an EIS is needed, and if appropriate, explain the reasons for preparing the EA:
N/A

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis:
Based on the information submitted for review with the license application, it is clear that the facility will handle all automotive fluids as required by law, shield the facility as required by law, and meet all Big Horn County zoning ordinances. It is the preliminary determination of the department that an EA will provide an adequate review for this proposal.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:
Big Horn County Commissioners.

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Montana Historical Society, and State Historic Preservation Office.

EA prepared by Carda Taylor

Date: June 29, 2012

YCI RECYCLING AND SALVAGE - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Potential Impacts on Physical Environment

1. Terrestrial & aquatic life habitats
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality

The proposed wrecking facility in Hardin, Montana, is surrounded by other types of businesses, residential and agriculture. The actual working area of the wrecking yard only covers a small portion of the 20 acre parcel. The impacts to the terrestrial & aquatic habitats are minor to none because of the open space around the processing site and the adjoining properties.

The impacts to the vegetation cover, quantity and quality are minor to none because of the open space around the processing site and the adjoining properties.

The impacts caused by the wrecking facility activities should not be significant to the area's ecosystem because of its management practices as well as the intended preventative measures to ensure the ground is not compromised during the processing of the vehicles.

2. Water quality, quantity, and distribution

The properties in this area are on wells. The static ground water level in sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13 and 14, Township 01 S, Range 33 E varies from 3 feet to 18 feet below ground surface (BGS) with an average static water level of 8.33 feet (BGS). The static ground water level in sections 6, 7, 18, Township 01 S, Range 34 E varies from 8.5 feet to 13 feet (BGS) with an average of static water level of 9.75 feet BGS.

This proposed motor vehicle wrecking yard is not expected to have any negative impacts on the quality, quantity, and distribution of the ground water because of the intended management practices. These practices will include the removal of the automotive fluids and baling the vehicles over an impermeable pad. These auto fluids will be either reused or properly recycled.

3. Geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture

The soils in the vicinity of the site are classified by the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service as Kyle, Haverson and Heldt Series. The Kyle Series Soils are well drained and have 0 to 15 percent slopes. Haverson Series Soils are well drained and have 0 to 9 percent slopes. Heldt Series Soils are moderately well drained and have 0 to 25 percent slopes. The well log specifically for the property to be licensed indicated there is an average of 7.5 feet to the water table.

Waste anti-freeze, gasoline, and lubricating oils contain petroleum distillates, heavy

labor requirements and may be result in employment opportunities. These labor requirements to support the yard's operations would provide a positive employment impact for the community.

9. Demands for governmental services

The issuance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility license will require administrative and inspection services of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Big Horn County Junk Vehicle Program personnel. These services are not expected to heavily impact current workloads.

11. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals

The site selection is not the responsibility of Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program, but rather the applicant.

The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility at this location does **not** conflict with any existing zoning ordinances as certified by The Board of Commissioners, Big Horn County, Hardin, Montana.

Effect on Adjoining Landowners and Land Uses
Other Site-Specific Information

Information gathered for the preparation of this Environmental Assessment reveals that the businesses and agriculture activities adjacent to proposed site will not be adversely affected by the operation of a MVWF project. The location of this wrecking facility should have minor or no impact on the adjoining landowners and land uses because of the management practices that have been noted in this EA.