



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Brian Schweitzer, Governor
Richard H. Opper, Director

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September 18, 2012

Dear Reader:

On April 17, 2012 Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc., (Shumaker) filed an application for an amendment to their operating permit by the Department of Environmental Quality under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act (MMRA). In the application, Shumaker proposed to include a new quarry site, the Chinook Quarry, into their existing operating permit.

The Chinook Quarry is a shonkinite quarry that is currently operated by Shumaker under a Small Miner Exclusion Statement (SMES), but cannot stay under five acres of disturbance, and therefore it has to be amended into the Shumaker operating permit. The crushed shonkinite is used for aggregate and riprap. The quarry is located in Section 27, Township 31 North, Range 19 East, in Blaine County, about 14.3 miles southeast of Chinook, MT.

The proposed amendment would consist of 160 acres, with 52.5 acres to be disturbed over the life of the mine, which is estimated to be about fifty years. Historic mining has taken place at the site in the past, and since 2011 under a SMES. Current disturbance is about three acres. Total disturbance, including what has already been disturbed, would be about 22 acres over the next five years.

The quarry would be excavated using heavy equipment such as excavators, loaders, dozers, and screening equipment. An asphalt plant also may be located on site. Blasting would be required several times per year. Existing roads would be used to access the quarry site. Mining, screening, and crushing operations would normally take place during daylight hours from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

DEQ issued a Draft Checklist Environmental Analysis (CEA) on August 3, 2012 evaluating the potential environmental impacts from the proposed quarry and inviting comments on the proposed quarry. The Draft CEA addressed issues and concerns raised during public involvement and from agency scoping. No comments were received on the Draft CEA.

DEQ determines that the application and the final permit meet the substantive requirements of the MMRA and administrative rules adopted under the MRMA. DEQ estimates the cost to the State to ensure compliance with Title 75, chapters 2 and 5, the MMRA, the administrative rules adopted under the MMRA, and the final permit is \$82,143. Therefore, Shumaker is required to submit a reclamation bond in the amount pursuant to Section 82-4-338(1), MCA. DEQ will issue a final permit upon receipt and approval of the reclamation bond pursuant to Section 82-4-337(h), MCA.

Warren D. McCullough
Warren D. McCullough, Chief
Environmental Management Bureau

9/18/12
Date

OP /OP_Revisions&Amendments/Shumaker Trucking & Excavating 00179/ Final EA Reader Cover Letter