



**Brian Schweitzer, Governor  
Richard H. Opper, Director**

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September 28, 2012

Dear Reader:

On April 17, 2012, Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc., (Shumaker) filed an application for an amendment to their operating permit (00170) with the Department of Environmental Quality under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act (MMRA). The amendment would add a shonkinite quarry site (Chinook Quarry) that Shumaker currently operates under a Small Miner Exclusion Statement (SMES). The crushed shonkinite is used for aggregate and riprap.

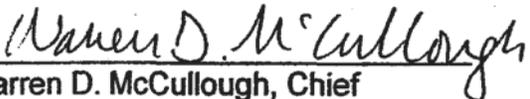
The quarry is located approximately 14 miles southeast of Chinook, MT on private property, in Section 27, Township 13 North, Range 19 East, Blaine County.

The amendment would cover a total of 160 acres. About 15 to 25 acres would be disturbed over the next five years, with about 53 acres to be disturbed over the life of mine, which is estimated to be about 50 years. Ground disturbance would range up to approximately 50 feet in depth. Shumaker would use trucks, dozers, loaders and excavators to remove the rock. Blasting would be required. A portable processing plant would be used, as well as crushers, and a pugmill. An asphalt plant would also be set up on site.

Shumaker must obtain an amendment to add the site to their existing operating permit as the site cannot stay under the five acre disturbed and unreclaimed limit required under the Small Miner Exclusion Statement, under which the site is currently being mined. Mining, screening, or crushing operations would normally take place during daylight hours from 6 AM to 7 PM Monday through Saturday.

This Draft CEA evaluated the potential impacts from this proposed amendment and provided for a public comment period. No comments were received. The agency has decided to approve the amendment with agency modification. The modification was proposed to minimize impacts of the highwall. The amendment stipulation states: The operator must grade the unconsolidated materials between the pillars into the pit at closure to the extent practicable.

Copies of the Draft CEA can be obtained by writing DEQ, Environmental Management Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, c/o Herb Rolfes, or calling (406) 444-3841; or sending email addressed to [hrolfes@mt.gov](mailto:hrolfes@mt.gov). The Draft CEA will also be posted on the DEQ web page: <http://www.deq.mt.gov/hardrock/default.mcp.x>.

  
Warren D. McCullough, Chief  
Environmental Management Bureau

9/28/12  
Date