

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901**  
**(406) 444-5300**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 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:** Stabler Steel and Recycling, a Montana firm has proposed a private Motor Vehicle Wrecking facility in Custer County.

**Description of Project:**

The proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility will be in Custer County. This facility will be located at 12 Peggy Lane, Miles City, Montana. The legal description of the facility is the NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 32, Township 08 North, Range 47 East. Specifically, the area will include Tract E, lots 9, 10, 11 and 12.

**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.

**Benefits of Proposal:** By obtaining a motor vehicle wrecking facility license, the applicant will be allowed to: (1) Purchase junk vehicles from the general public and insurance companies which will contribute to the overall cleanliness of the community in which it is located; (2) The facility will be required by statute to shield the junk vehicle from public view; (3) The facility will be required to handle all automotive waste in an environmentally safe manner; and (4) This service will conserve energy and natural resources otherwise used to manufacture new parts.

**Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives, whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider by the applicant and the Department:**

Alternative #1, considered by the applicant - Not to license and establish a facility at this location. This would limit public access to used automotive parts and limit the amount of automotive parts for recycling.

Alternative #2, considered by the applicant - To license and establish a facility at a location other than the one proposed in the license application. This would require the applicant to find and acquire by purchase or lease a different parcel for the proposed usage. At the time this application was made the Department was not made aware that any other location was considered.

Alternative #3, considered by DEQ - License the site because the applicant will be able to meet the requirements of the Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program Act and associated rules.

**A listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency:** Automotive fluids must be drained from the vehicles prior to dismantling. All fluids removed from the vehicles must be captured over an impermeable surface, properly containerized, and properly stored for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal. This is a management method intended to alleviate the potential for groundwater contamination. This is a license condition enforceable by the agency.

CFCs (Freon) must not be released to the environment. This is a federally enforceable requirement and is enforced by the U.S. EPA.

**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 Custer 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:**  
Custer 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:** December 27, 2012

**POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

	Maj	Mod	Min	None	Unkn	Att
1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitat				xxx		xxx
2. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution			xxx			xxx
3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture			xxx			xxx
4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality			xxx			xxx
5. Aesthetics			xxx			xxx
6. Air Quality			xxx			
7. Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources				xxx		
8. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy				xxx		
9. Historical and Archaeological Sites				xxx		xxx

\*Maj = Major; Mod = Moderate; Min = Minor; Unkn = Unknown; Att = Physical Environment Impacts Section  
**CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS:** The potential impacts on the physical environment will be minimal because of the proposed management practices. Upon closure of the facility and removal of the junk vehicles the aesthetics of the site will return to their original state.

**POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

	Maj	Mod	Min	None	Unkn	Att
1. Social Structure and Mores				xxx		
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				xxx		
3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			xxx			xxx
4. Agricultural or Industrial Production				xxx		
5. Human Health				xxx		
6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities				xxx		
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment			xxx			xxx
8. Distribution of Population				xxx		
9. Demands for Government Services			xxx			xxx
10. Industrial and Commercial Activities				xxx		
11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals				xxx		xxx

\*Maj = Major; Mod = Moderate; Min = Minor; Unkn = Unknown; Att = Human Environmental Impact Section  
**CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS:** The impacts will be minor for local and state tax base and tax revenue due to the fact that the trucking business has been actively running for years at this site. The quantity and distribution of employment will be minor to none because of the already existing trucking business. The demands for government services will be minor to none and will be covered by county staff and state staff.

# STABLER STEEL & RECYCLING - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## Potential Impacts on Physical Environment

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

The proposed facility is sited in Miles City, MT. The terrestrial & aquatic habitats will have minor to no impacts because the area immediately surrounding the proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility is either agriculture land, other developed industrial properties, and a residential property.

The vegetative cover, quantity and quality will have minor to no impacts because the adjoining properties have already been developed.

The impacts caused by the wrecking facility activities should not adversely affect the area's ecosystem.

2. Water quality, quantity, and distribution

The properties in this area are on wells. The static ground water level in sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, Township 08N, Range 47E varies from 0 feet to 260 feet below ground surface (BGS) with an average static water level of 19.1 feet (BGS). The static ground water level in sections 4, 5, and 6, Township 07N, Range 47E varies from 12 feet to 40 feet (BGS) with an average of static water level of 18.1 feet BGS. This proposed motor vehicle wrecking yard is not expected to have any impacts on the quality, quantity, and distribution of the ground water because of the proposed management practices. These practices will include the removal of the automotive fluids over an impermeable pad before the junk vehicles are processed. 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 Yamacall loam, Spinekop silty clay loam and Havre loam. These soils are well drained, 0 to 2 percent slope, and more than 80 inches to water table. Waste anti-freeze, gasoline, and lubricating oils contain petroleum distillates, heavy metals, and possibly toxic compounds. If improperly disposed of, can cause surface and groundwater degradation. The applicant proposes to properly reuse or recycle all of the above-named automotive fluids. Some residual lubricating oils and anti-freeze may drip from the vehicles stored at the facility. This residual dripping is not expected to be significant or result in heavy soil contaminant accumulations because the junk vehicles will have the fluid removed over an impermeable pad prior to crushing.

## 5. Aesthetics

The Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program is mandated by statute to require all Motor Vehicle Wrecking Facilities to shield their junk vehicles from public view.

"Public view" is defined as any point six feet above the surface of the center of a public road from which the junk vehicles can be seen.

The applicant plans to use metallic fencing along Gary Owens Road which will be slightly over 6 feet high to shield the junk vehicles from public view. An onsite evaluation by department personnel determined this construction will be adequate to meet the shielding requirements of the Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Act.

## 9. Historical and archaeological sites

Based on the information gathered from the State Historic Preservation Office, it was concluded that the proposed facility would have a low likelihood of impacting cultural resources in the area.

### **Potential Impacts on Human Environment**

#### 3. Local & state tax base & tax revenue

#### 7. Quantity and distribution of employment

The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility at the proposed location may provide a source of used motor vehicles or component parts for sale to the public. The issuance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility license will allow the applicant 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 motor vehicle parts; and (3) Purchase wrecked vehicles from insurance companies. Insurance companies are required by state law to sell junk vehicles only to licensed motor vehicle wrecking yards.

The operation of a motor vehicle wrecking facility may create additional labor requirements and may result in an increase of employment. This employment and the employment requirements for the support services of this yard may provide a neutral to 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 Custer County Junk Vehicle Program personnel.

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 Dennis Hirsch, Zoning Coordinator, in Custer County, Miles City, Montana.

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

Information gathered for the preparation of this Environmental Assessment reveals that directly adjacent to the proposed location are other tracts of other industrial operations, a residential site and some agricultural activity. 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.

, 2012

Advertising Editor

PO Box 31238  
Billings MT 59107-1238

Dear Sir:

State law requires all motor vehicle wrecking facilities to be screened from public view and be licensed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. I am enclosing a public notice pertaining to the application for the licensing of a motor vehicle wrecking facility in your area. This notice is currently being circulated for **30 days** to assure public knowledge of the proposed action. We request that the enclosed notice be published as a legal notice in your newspaper as soon as possible. We are making every effort possible to generate public knowledge and interest in this licensing action.

Please submit billing in the prescribed manner to the Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program, Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau, Permitting & Compliance Division, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901. We request that this **notice be run 1 time only**. Please include at least **1 original** copy of the notice/tear sheet with the bill.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Meyer  
Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program  
(406) 444-2835  
[brmeyer@mt.gov](mailto:brmeyer@mt.gov)

Enc: Public Notice for , MT

c:

File

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Requisition # WUT 50

An application for the licensing of a motor vehicle wrecking facility has been submitted to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting & Compliance Division, for review. The name and address of the applicant follows:

PO Box 30597  
MT

The proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility will be in \_\_\_\_\_ County.

The Department has reviewed the application submitted \_\_\_\_\_, 2012, and found it to be complete. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the proposed action and to seek their participation in the decision-making process. Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), Rules 17.4.609 and 17.4.610, an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the proposed facility and is available upon request from the Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting & Compliance Division, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901. A **30-day comment period** from the date of this notice will be given for the public to submit written comments to the Department concerning the proposed facility.

**Dated this \_\_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2012.**

, 2012

List Adjoining Property Owners

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 , MT a proposed private motor vehicle wrecking facility in , 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,

Bruce W. Meyer  
Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program  
(406) 444-2835  
[brmeyer@mt.gov](mailto:brmeyer@mt.gov)

Enc: Environmental Assessment for , MT

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