

Oil & Gas Development
Department of Environmental Quality's Role
Water Policy Interim Committee
July 12, 2012

Issues from drilling and construction activity

Air Quality

- Air quality permits are required for the construction, installation and operation of equipment or facilities that may cause or contribute to air pollution (natural gas burners, oil storage tanks, fugitive dust, etc.).
- Oil and Gas Registrations are required for each well in lieu of obtaining a Montana Air Quality Permit (MAQP).

Water Quality

- Stream bank disturbance - Authorization required when construction activity will cause short term or temporary violations of state surface water quality standards for turbidity.
- Storm Water Construction Permits - A storm water discharge associated with construction activity disturbing 1 acre or more requires permit coverage.
- Storm Water Permit for Oil and Gas Activities - A General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Mining and with Oil and Gas Activities is required for storm water discharges from various mining and oil and gas facilities.
- Surface Water Discharge Permits for Construction Dewatering - Construction projects that discharge sediment-laden water from construction dewatering projects to state surface water must have coverage under the Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) Construction Dewatering General Permit (CDGP).
- Discharge Permits for Produced Water - The purpose of the Produced Water General Permit is to regulate Discharged wastewater resulting from oil/natural gas production wells to ephemeral drainages or holding ponds requires permit coverage.
- Ground Water Discharge Permits - Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) permits are needed for potential sources of pollution to state ground waters (tailings ponds, waste treatment and storage ponds, spill clean-up systems, and soil treatment cells).

Waste Disposal

- Hazardous waste - A permit is required to construct or operate a hazardous waste management facility for the treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes.
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) - A RCRA permit is needed to establish the waste management activities that a facility can conduct and the conditions under which it can conduct them.
- Solid waste - A permit is needed for municipal landfills, construction and demolition waste landfills, and septic tank land application sites.

Opencut Permits (Gravel)-- Construction of drilling facilities requires the construction of roads and pads. This, in turn, requires large quantities of gravel and scoria. We do not have regulatory authority over the roads or pads, just the gravel and scoria extraction.

Derivative issues from increased population

Drinking Water and Waste Water

- **Subdivision Review**

When land is subdivided, it is subject to the requirements of both the Subdivision and Platting Act and the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act. Subdivisions are defined as

- All new parcels less than 20 acres in size.
- All new RV parks consisting of 2 or more RV spaces for rent.
- All new mobile home parks consisting of 2 or more spaces for rent.
- 30 new subdivision submittals since start of FY11.

- **Public Water Supply**

The DEQ regulates any water system that has at least 15 service connections or that regularly serves at least 25 persons daily for any 60 or more days in a calendar year. This include work camps where the employer is providing housing for employees, new RV or mobile home parks and water and sewer extensions or capacity increases for existing cities and towns.

- **Sewer Systems**

Approval from DEQ is required to construct, alter or extend a public sewer system serving 15 or more families or 25 or more persons daily for any 60 or more days in a calendar year. Plans and specifications must be approved for construction, alteration or extensions of any wastewater system or treatment facilities.

- **Septic Pumpers**

DEQ licenses people engaged in the business of cleaning cesspools, septic tanks, portable toilets, privies, grease traps, car wash sumps, or similar treatment works, or disposal of septage and other wastes from these sources.

Solid Waste

DEQ regulates landfills, which are dealing with increased volume in household garbage being disposed of.