

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Lee Myers Myers Site
 Proposed Implementation Date: Summer 1997
 Proponent: Lee Myers, 6848 Neibauer, Billings MT 59106

Type and Purpose of Action: The operator has applied for a 5-acre gravel site where they propose to salvage all available soil material, remove 100,000 cubic yards of mineral, and reclaim the site to a pond, recreational property, and possibly homesites. The estimated date for final reclamation is 2007.

Location and County: SWNE30, T1S, R25E, Yellowstone County, between Billings and Laurel.

N = Not present or insignificant impact.
 Y = An impact may occur (explain).

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
1. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY, AND GEOLOGIC AND EDAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, SUITABILITY, AND STABILITY: Are there unusual geologic features? Are fragile, compactible, or unstable soils present? Is the proposed soil material handling adequate? Are there special mining and reclamation considerations?	N - The site is on flat agricultural-suburban land surrounded by the same. The site is in the sedimentary plains portion of the state and no unusual geologic features were noted during the site evaluation. The soils on site consist of 1 foot of gravelly soil material. There are no special mining and reclamation considerations.
2. WATER RESOURCE LOCATION, QUANTITY, QUALITY, AND PROTECTION: Are surface or ground water resources present? Is there the potential for degradation of water quality or quantity? Could water wells be affected? Are there special mining and reclamation considerations?	N - Irrigation ditches run along the sides of the site, but these dead end on the applicant's property. Groundwater will be encountered by mining, thus the plan to develop a pond. A stream is adjacent to the site. Any wells are more than 1,000' from the site. There are no special mining and reclamation considerations to add to the berms and silt fence.
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Do air quality regulations apply?	N - Pollutants and particulates will be produced on a temporary basis by mining and reclamation operations. Operators are required to comply with state air quality regulations.

<p>4. PRESENT LAND USE, VEGETATIVE COMPOSITION AND COVER, AND PROPOSED POSTMINING LAND USE: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or vegetative communities present? Are there special mining and reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>N - The present land use is irrigated pasture. The proposed postmining land uses are pond, recreational property, and possibly homesites. Disturbed areas will be seeded.</p> <p>The Montana Natural Heritage Program reports the occurrence of the Bald Eagle far to the south on the Yellowstone River.</p> <p>The Department will notify the county weed control board about the operation.</p> <p>There are no special mining and reclamation considerations.</p>
<p>5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by common or rare mammals, birds, fish, or other animal species?</p>	<p>N - No common or rare species or evidence of their use of the area were observed during the premine visit.</p> <p>The Montana Natural Heritage Program reports the bald eagle far to the south on Yellowstone River.</p>
<p>6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Species of special concern? Wetlands?</p>	<p>N - The author is not aware of any unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources in or around the site.</p>
<p>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Has the site been surveyed by a cultural resource professional or paraprofessional? Are any historical or archaeological resources present?</p>	<p>N - No cultural resources were observed within or around the site. If such resources are found, the operator has committed to routing the operation around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made, and to promptly notifying the State Historic Preservation Office.</p>
<p>8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? What facilities will be on site? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>N - The site is in the middle of a section that has housing developments along the north, east, and south sides. The nearest dwelling is over 1,000 feet away.</p> <p>Noise and light could be a problem if the operator decided to mine evenings, nights, and/or weekends.</p>
<p>9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR, OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect or be affected by the project?</p>	<p>N - There will not be a significant demand or impact on environmental resources or other projects as a result of this operation.</p>

10. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OR IMPACTS: Are there other studies, plans, or projects on this tract? Will waste disposal be properly handled? Is reclamation guaranteed by a bond?	N - The author is not aware of any other environmental aspects or impacts. The operator has committed to proper waste disposal. The operator has posted sufficient bond to guarantee reclamation.
IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	N - The site is in the middle of the section with the nearest house being over 1,000 feet away. The project should not add to the health and safety risks in the area if the operator and landowner manage the site in a responsible manner. The operator is required to comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations.
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	N - Industrial, commercial, or agricultural activities in the area will not be significantly affected by the project.
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move, or eliminate jobs?	N - The quantity or distribution of employment in the project area will not be significantly affected by the project.
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	N - Local and state tax revenues have not been significantly affected by similar operations in the state.
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial changes in road use occur? Will other facilities and services (e.g., fire protection, police, schools) be affected or needed?	N - The operator will use county roads to distribute his product.
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there federal, state, county, city, tribal, and/or private zoning or management plans in effect?	N - The author is not aware of any other environmental plans or goals. The local zoning authority has been contacted and clearance obtained.
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are recreational or wilderness areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	N - Access to or the quality of recreational lands and activities on site and in the area will not be affected by the project.
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the area's population and require additional housing?	N - Population or housing density and distribution will not be significantly affected by the project.
19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	N - The local social structure or mores will not be significantly affected by the project.

