

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Krieman #1 Gravel Site

Proponent: Dawson County

Legal Description: SWNE29, 19N, 52E

County: Dawson

Proposed Implementation Date: 1998

Type and Purpose of Action: The operator has applied for a permit to mine about 2 acres in a 2-acre permit area. They propose to properly prepare the site for mining and reclamation, remove about 40,000 cubic yards of gravel, and reclaim the site to farmland. The date of final reclamation will be no later than December 2008.

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
<p>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 exceptional mining and reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>N - Location and topography: The site is just south of a county road near the landowner's house. It's on a low bench next to a prairie drainageway. The area topography consists of relatively flat farm and range land dissected by mellow draiageways.</p> <p>Geologic and edaphic characteristics: The site is in the sedimentary plains portion of the state. The soil is plus or minus 16" thick over gravel. The operator has committed to salvaging and replacing all available soil material.</p> <p>Exceptional topographic, geologic, and edaphic considerations: None.</p>
<p>2. WATER RESOURCE LOCATION, QUANTITY, QUALITY, AND PROTECTION: Are groundwater or surface water resources present? Is there the potential for degradation of water quality or quantity? Could water wells be affected? Is the proposed bulk fuel storage adequate? Are there special mining and reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>N - The operator has committed to protecting surface water and groundwater resources.</p> <p>Groundwater resources or wells: None apparent.</p> <p>Surface water resources: None apparent.</p> <p>Bulk fuel storage: None anticipated.</p> <p>Exceptional water resource considerations: None.</p>

<p>3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Do air quality regulations apply?</p>	<p>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> <p>Exceptional air quality considerations: None.</p>
<p>4. PRESENT LAND USE, VEGETATIVE COMPOSITION AND COVER, PROPOSED POSTMINING LAND USE, AND WEED CONTROL: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or vegetative communities present? Are there exceptional mining and reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>N - Vegetation and present land use: farmland.</p> <p>Proposed postmining land use and revegetation: farmland.</p> <p>Rare plants or rare vegetative communities: None apparent. If the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) reports an element occurrence in the area, the Department will perform appropriate follow-up.</p> <p>Weed control: The Department will notify the county weed control board about the operation. The operator has committed to controlling any on-site noxious weeds.</p> <p>Exceptional land use and vegetation considerations: None.</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 - Common species or evidence of their use of the area: None apparent.</p> <p>Rare species or evidence of their use of the area: None apparent. If the MNHP reports an element occurrence in the area, the Department will perform appropriate follow-up.</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? Riparian areas? Wetlands?</p>	<p>N - Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources within or around the site: None apparent. If the MNHP reports an element occurrence in the area, the Department will perform appropriate follow-up</p> <p>Riparian areas and wetlands: None apparent.</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 - Archaeological or historical resources: None apparent. 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 area readily visible from surrounding accessible areas? Is it visible from populated or high use areas such as residences, scenic viewpoints, or recreational areas? Considering the facilities to be on site, will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>N - Visibility from surrounding area: The site is in a remote farming and ranching area. It's visible from the lightly used county road.</p> <p>Visibility from populated or high use areas: Not applicable.</p> <p>Facilities to be on site: None anticipated.</p> <p>Excessive noise or light: None anticipated.</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?	N - There will not be a significant demand or impact on environmental resources or other projects as a result of this operation.
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 is obligated by contract with the state to reclaim the site.

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 - Health and safety: This project should not increase health and safety risks in the area if the operator/landowner manages the site in a responsible manner. Operators are 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 - Government services: The operator will use county roads to distribute their 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.

