

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
OPENCUT MINING PROGRAM**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE PROPOSED  
LOCKMAN GRAVEL SITE**

PROPONENT: Prince, Inc.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NWN23, T30N, R53E

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Spring 1998

COUNTY: Roosevelt

COMPLETION OF FINAL RECLAMATION: September 1999

TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Operator has submitted an application to MDEQ for a permit to surface mine about 170,000 cubic yards of gravel from a 53.72-acre site to obtain construction materials. Operator has committed to mining and reclaiming the site in an environmentally responsible manner. The proposed reclaimed use is cropland.

N = Not present or insignificant impact, Y = Significant impact may occur.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
1. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY, AND GEOLOGIC AND EDAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES.	<p>N - Location and topography. The site is 1 mile south and 0.5 mile west of paved County Road 344. It's in relatively flat grain county. Mining and reclamation will create a 10-15' depression in the native topography. The site will be graded to blend into the surrounding topography and have stable 5:1 slopes.</p> <p>Geologic characteristics. The site is in the glaciated sedimentary plains portion of the state. Mining will remove up to 10' of gravel deposit in a 28.5-acre area.</p> <p>Edaphic characteristics. The soil and overburden are up to 3' thick. Operator will salvage all soil and overburden separately and replace it upon reclamation. There are no special considerations.</p>
2. SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER RESOURCES INCLUDING LOCATION, QUANTITY, QUALITY, STRUCTURES, AND USES. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES.	<p>N - Surface water and groundwater resources or structures were not apparent on or near the site. Such resources should not be affected by the operation and operator has committed to protecting these resources. No on-site fuel storage is anticipated.</p>

<p>3. AIR QUALITY. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES.</p>	<p>N - Pollutants and particulates will be produced on a temporary basis by this operation. Operators are required to comply with state air quality regulations. Site is in a remote area.</p>
<p>4. PAST MINING DISTURBANCE, PRESENT LAND USE AND VEGETATION, PROPOSED POSTMINING LAND USE AND VEGETATION, AND WEED CONTROL. - SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES.</p>	<p>N - Past mining disturbance and present land use. The operator mined and reclaimed an approximate 16.5-acre area portion of the application area several years ago. This area will be used as facility area for this operation. The current groundcover in the reclaimed area consists of bare ground, gravelly surfaces, grain, and sparse grass. The unmined portion of the proposed area is grain field.</p> <p>The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) reports no element occurrences within or near the site.</p> <p>Proposed postmining land use and vegetation. The site will be reclaimed to farmland.</p> <p>Weed control. Operator has committed to spraying weeds as necessary and to controlling any on-site noxious weeds. The county weed control board has been notified of the operation.</p>
<p>5. COMMON AQUATIC, TERRESTRIAL, AND AVIAN HABITATS AND SPECIES. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES.</p>	<p>N - The site has low wildlife habitat value due to the lack of topography and cover. Deer and upland birds may use the area.</p>
<p>6. FRAGILE, RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED HABITAT AND SPECIES. - SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES.</p>	<p>N - None of the mentioned resources were apparent. There are no riparian or wetland areas within or adjacent to the site. The MNHP reports no element occurrences within or near the site.</p>
<p>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL - SITES. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES.</p>	<p>N - The site should have been surveyed per MDOT requirements. An MDEQ reconnaissance of the site revealed no archeological or historical resources on site. If such resources are found during mining and reclamation operations, operator has committed to promptly notifying the State Historic Preservation Office and routing the operation around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made.</p>
<p>8. AESTHETICS. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES.</p>	<p>N - The site is located in a remote area. The crusher and asphalt plant on site will not create a disturbance. This is a short-term operation and the aesthetic impact will be minimal.</p>
<p>9. EFFECTS ON OTHER NATURAL - RESOURCES. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES.</p>	<p>N - There should be no impacts on other natural resources.</p>

<p>10. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL OR OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND RECLAMATION, MINERAL STOCKPILE DISPOSITION, WASTE DISPOSAL, BOND, AND SPECIAL COMMITMENTS.</p>	<p>N - A road already exists to the site. This road will remain after mining and reclamation. All wastes will be properly disposed of. Operator has posted bond sufficient to cover reclamation costs.</p>
<p><b>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b></p>	
<p><b>RESOURCE</b></p>	<p><b>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b></p>
<p>11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY. Will the project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>N - Health and safety: This project should not increase health and safety risks in the area if the operator and landowner manage the site in a responsible manner. Operator is required to comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations.</p>
<p>12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION. Will the project alter these activities?</p>	<p>N - Industrial, commercial, or agricultural activities in the area will not be significantly affected by the project.</p>
<p>13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT. Will the project create, move, or eliminate jobs?</p>	<p>N - The quantity or distribution of employment in the project area will not be significantly affected by the project.</p>
<p>14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES. Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>N - Local and state tax revenues have not been significantly affected by similar operations in the state.</p>
<p>15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES. Will substantial changes in road use occur? Will other facilities and services be affected or needed?</p>	<p>N - The operator will use county roads to haul his product. No other government services should be significantly affected.</p>
<p>16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS. Are federal, state, county, city, tribal, or private zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>N - The author is not aware of any other environmental plans or goals. The local zoning authority has been contacted and clearance obtained.</p>
<p>17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AREAS. Will mining and reclamation activities affect the access to or quality of recreation areas?</p>	<p>N - Access to or the quality of recreational areas will not be affected by the project.</p>
<p>18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING. Will the project add to the area's population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>N - Population or housing density and distribution will not be significantly affected by the project.</p>
<p>19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES. Will the project cause disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities?</p>	<p>N - The local social structure or mores will not be significantly affected by the project.</p>
<p>20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY. Will the project cause a shift in a unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>N - The local cultural uniqueness or diversity will not be significantly affected by the project.</p>
<p>21. OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES.</p>	<p>N - Other significant social or economic circumstances are not apparent.</p>

