

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620
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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued For: Donaldson Brothers Ready Mix.
477 HWY 93 North
Hamilton MT 59840

Air Quality Permit Number: 3017-00

Preliminary Determination on Permit Issued: 07/27/98

Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Compliance: An environmental assessment required by MEPA, was completed for this project as follows.

Legal Description of Site: (portable source, original location) NE¼ of SW¼, Section 30, Township 7 North, Range 20 West, in Ravalli County, Montana.

Description of Project: This permit is for a 1989 Fabtec screen (maximum production 100 TPH) and associated equipment.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: This plant sorts sand and gravel for use in industry.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider: No reasonable alternatives available.

A listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency: A list of enforceable conditions, including a BACT analysis, are contained in permit #3017-00.

Description and analysis of regulatory impacts on private property rights: The department has considered alternatives to the conditions imposed in this permit as part of the permit development. The department has determined that the permit conditions are reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with applicable requirements and demonstrate compliance with those requirements and do not unduly restrict private property rights.

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Potential Impact on Physical Environment

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Attached
1	Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats			X			1
2	Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution			X			2
3	Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture			X			3
4	Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality			X			4
5	Aesthetics			X			5
6	Air Quality			X			6
7	Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resource			X			7
8	Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy			X			8
9	Historical and Archaeological Sites			X			9
10	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			10

1. Terrestrials will use the areas in which the screening operations occur. However, the screening operations alone will present only minor affects to the terrestrial life. In addition, the screening operations are portable and the affects will be limited by short term projects.

2. Water will be used as pollution control but will only cause minor disturbance to the area. Any accidental spills or leaks from equipment will be handled as required in the open cut mining contracts.

3. The soils will be impacted by the screening operations. The impacts will be minor due to the size of the operation and requirements that are incorporated in the open cut mining contracts for reclamation procedures.

4. The vegetation cover will be affected by the screening operations. Since the sites are pre-existing pits, the affects of the projects will be less noticeable. The vegetation can be reestablished following the mining operations in the area as required in the open cut mining contracts.

5. The screening operations will be visible and will create additional noise in the area. Since the screening operations are small, any noise impacts will be minimal.

6. The air quality impacts from the screening operations are minor. This permit includes conditions limiting the opacity from the plant as well as requiring water spray bars to control air pollution. Also, all sites are limited to a total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant including any additional equipment at any individual site.

7. The affects to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources are minor because screening operations are portable and do not stay in one location for long periods of time. The screening operations are performed on relatively small portions of land with regard to the surrounding area. Also, the affects on these resources are determined when an open cut mining contract is issued for each individual mine site.

8. The screening operations will only demand small quantities of water, air and energy for proper operation.

9. Historical and archaeological sites may be present at the locations where the screening operations will operate. If artifacts are found during the course of mining, operations will be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made, The State Historic Preservation Office will be promptly notified.

10. There is potential for other portable operations to locate at these sites. However, any such operation would have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits from the DEQ prior to operation. These permits will address the environmental impacts associated with such operations at this or any other site. Overall, the screening operations will have only minor impacts on the area because they affect only a small amount of property for a short amount of time. All sites are limited to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant and any associated equipment.

Potential Impact on Human Environment

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Attached
1	Social Structures and Mores				X		1
2	Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				X		2
3	Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			X			3
4	Agricultural or Industrial Production			X			4
5	Human Health			X			5
6	Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities			X			6
7	Quantity and Distribution of Employment			X			7
8	Distribution of Population				X		8
9	Demands for Government Services			X			9
10	Industrial and Commercial Activity			X			10
11	Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals				X		11
12	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			12

1. There will be no disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities from the screening operations.
2. The screening operations will not cause a change in the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area.
3. The screening operations will have little, if any, affects on the local and state tax base and tax revenue. The activity will continue in an area for only a short period of time, creating no permanent income.
4. The screening operations will not create any agricultural production. The screening operations are small by industrial standards and will therefore have only a minor impact on local industrial production.
5. This permit incorporates conditions to ensure that the operations will be operated in compliance with all applicable rules and standards. These conditions are designed to be protective of human health.
6. The screening operations will not affect any access to recreational and wilderness activities. However, minor affects to the quality of recreational and wilderness activities will be created by the aesthetics and noise from the site. In addition, any impacts will be temporary because the screening operations are portable.
7. The activities from the screening operations will not greatly affect the quality and distribution of employment in the area. More than likely, the activities will only employ people from the company, and they will be in an area for only a short period of time.
8. The screening operations will not require additional or less housing in the area. Several people from the company may stay in the area during the short-term project.
9. Minor increases will be seen in traffic on existing roads in the area while the screening operations are in progress because this is a relatively small operation, involving small amounts of property. The only other government services demanded for this project will be acquiring the appropriate permits from government agencies.
10. The screening operations represent only a minor increase in the industrial activity in the area. No additional industrial or commercial activity is expected as a result of the screening operations
11. There will be no affect to the locally adopted environmental plans and goals because this plant will operate at sites where current zoning does not exclude this type of mining activity.
12. There is potential for other portable operations to locate at this site. However, any such operations will have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits form the DEQ prior to operation. These permits will address the environmental impacts associated with such operations at this or any other site. In addition, the screening operations are limited to a total particulate emission of 250 tons/year or less from the screening operations and any other additional equipment used at the site.

Recommendation: No EIS is required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: This plant is a portable source and there will be no significant impacts. In addition, the controls contained in permit #3017-00 will further limit the emissions.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: Department of Environmental Quality, Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau.

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting and Compliance Division.

EA prepared by: Lana Hedlund

Date: July 7, 1998