

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 444-3490

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued For: HiLine Redi-Mix
248 Main Street
Shelby, MT 59474

RECEIVED

AUG 21 1998

**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

Air Quality Permit Number: 3018-00

Preliminary Determination Issued: 08/03/98
Department Decision Issued: 08/19/98

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

Legal Description of Site: SW¼ of Section 1, Township 17 North, Range 6 East in Cascade County, Montana

Description of Project: This permit is for the operation of a 450 KW Diesel Generator, a Cedarapids jaw crusher, an ELJay 1145 Crushing Plant, five Fisher conveyors, and associated equipment

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: This proposal is necessary for HiLine Redi-Mix to continue crushing and screening aggregate.

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 best available control technology analysis, is contained in permit #3018-00.

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.

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

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

Potential Impact on Human Environment

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

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL IMPACTS: The following comments have been prepared by the Department.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats

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

2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

Water will be used as pollution control, but will only cause minor disturbance to the area. When HiLine Redi-Mix moves into a permitted open-cut mining pit, any accidental spills or leaks from equipment will be handled as required by the open-cut mining contract. HiLine Redi-Mix has recently submitted a permit application for an open-cut mining contract from the Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau (IEMB) of the department.

3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

The soils will be impacted by the crusher operations. The impacts will be minor due to the size of the operation, and requirements that may be incorporated in the open-cut mining contract for reclamation procedures.

4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

The vegetation cover will be affected by the crusher operations. Since the sites are usually pre-existing pits, the affects of the projects are less noticeable. The vegetation can be re-established following the mining operations in the area as may be required in an open-cut mining contract.

5. Aesthetics

The crusher operations will be visible and will create additional noise in the area. Since the crusher operations are relatively small and portable, any noise and visibility impacts will be minimal and short term. Permit #3018-00 also includes conditions to control emissions (including visible emissions) from the plant.

6. Air Quality

The air quality impacts from the crusher operations are minor. Permit #3018-00 includes conditions limiting the opacity from the plant as well, as requiring water spray bars to control air pollution. The crusher operations are also limited by permit #3018-00 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant in addition to any additional equipment at any individual site.

7. Unique Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources

The affects to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources are minor because the crusher operations are portable and do not stay in one location for long periods of time. The crusher operations are performed on relatively small portions of land with regard to the surrounding area.

8. Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air and Energy

The crusher operations will only demand small quantities of water, air, and energy for proper operating. Small quantities of water will be used for emission control and dust suppression. The ambient air surrounding the facility will be impacted by the crusher operations. The equipment will be operated with a diesel generator.

9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

Historical and archaeological sites may be present at the locations where the crusher operations will be performed. The crusher operations generally move into sites that are pre-existing. HiLine Redi-Mix has recently submitted an application to the IEMB to obtain an open-cut mining contract. As part of the open-cut mining contract, the presence of historical and archaeological sites will be investigated.

10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The crusher operations will cause a minor affect to both the physical and human environments. There is potential for other operations to locate at these sites. However, any operations will have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits from the department prior to operation. These permits will address the environmental impacts associated with the operations at this or any other site. In addition, the crusher operations are limited by permit #3018-00 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the crusher operations and any other additional equipment used at the site.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Social Structures and Mores

The crusher operation will not cause a disruption to the native or traditional lifestyles or communities of the area.

2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

The crusher operation will have no impact on the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area.

3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

The crusher operations will create minor impacts on the local and state tax base and tax revenue. The activity will continue in the area for only a short period of time. There is potential for this project to create additional employment in the area.

4. Agricultural or Industrial Production

The crusher operations will not create any agricultural production. The crusher operations are small by industrial standards and will, therefore, have only a minor impact on local industrial production.

5. Human Health

Permit #3018-00 incorporates conditions to ensure that the crusher operations will be operated in compliance with all applicable rules and standards. These rules and standards are designed to be protective of human health.

6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The crusher 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 noise from the site. Any impacts from the noise will be temporary, because the crusher operations are portable.

7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

The activities from the crusher operations will not greatly affect the quantity and distribution of employment in the area. More than likely, the activities will only employ people that currently work for the company, and they will be in the area for only a short period of time. However, it is possible this project will provide a couple new jobs.

8. Distribution of Population

The crusher operations will not require additional or less housing in the area. Several people from the facility will likely stay in the area for the short-term projects.

9. Demands of Government Services

Minor increases will be seen in traffic on existing roads in the area while the crusher operations are in progress. The crusher operations will occupy only small amounts of property (~15 acres for the original site). The only other government services demanded for this project will be acquiring the appropriate permits from government agencies.

10. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The crusher 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 crusher operations.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

There are no locally adopted environmental plans or goals that will affect this facility.

12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The crusher operations will cause a minor affect to both the physical and human environments. There is potential for other operations to locate at these sites. However, any operations will have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits from the department prior to operation. These permits will address the environmental impacts associated with the operations at this or any other site. In addition, the crusher operations are limited by permit #3018-00 to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the crusher 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: Since this plant is a portable source, there will be no significant impacts. The controls contained in permit #3018-00 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: Dan Walsh

Date: July 20, 1998