

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

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**

Issued For: Granite Concrete Co. Inc.  
P.O. Box 655  
Libby, MT 59923

Revised 1-10-98  
BRC

Air Quality Permit Number: 3020-00

Preliminary Determination on Permit Issued: 09/09/98

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

Legal Description of Site: Various locations throughout Montana, original location at E½, SW¼, Section 14, Township 30N, Range 31W, Lincoln County, Montana.

Description of Project: A portable 1945 Cedar Rapids Jaw Crusher, Serial #7878 (maximum production 71 TPH); a portable 1958 Telsmith Cone Crusher, Model 367 Standard, Serial #7190 (maximum production 71 TPH); a portable 1996 Armadillo, 2-Deck Screen, Serial # 41-550 (maximum production 71 TPH); and associated equipment.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: This plant crushes and sorts sand and gravel for use in concrete production.

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 #3020-00.

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

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

### Potential Impact on Human Environment

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

**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

This facility will cause only nonsignificant impacts. The operation is portable and operates on small portions of land.

### 2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

Water will be used as pollution control but is not expected to have significant impacts on the water quality, quantity or distribution because this operation is small and does not mine material at the current site.

### 3. Geology and Soil Quality Stability and Moisture

Since this facility does not mine material at the current site, only nonsignificant impacts to the geology and soil quality, stability and moisture will be experienced.

### 4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

Since this facility does not mine material at the current site, only nonsignificant impacts to the vegetation cover, quantity and quality is expected.

### 5. Aesthetics

The crusher operations will be visible and will create additional noise in the area. However, the impacts are expected to be nonsignificant because this operation is small by industrial standards and operates on small portions of land.

### 6. Air Quality

The department must be notified if there is a change in size of operation or equipment that results in an increase in emissions. Air quality impacts from the operation are nonsignificant. This permit includes conditions limiting the opacity from the plant, as well as requiring water spray bars to control air pollution.

### 7. Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources

This crushing operation will have only nonsignificant impacts to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources because this facility does not mine material at the current site, is small by industry standards and operates on small portions of land.

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

The operation will only demand small quantities of water, air and energy for proper operation; therefore, nonsignificant impacts to these resources is expected.

### 9. Historical and Archaeological Sites

Historical and archaeological sites may be present at the locations where operations will be performed. However, no new ground breaking will occur at this site as material is trucked to this facility. Therefore, impacts are expected to be nonsignificant.

### 10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

There is potential for other portable operations to locate at any mining site where nonmetallic mineral processing may occur. However, any such operation would have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits/contracts from the department prior to operation.

These permits/contracts will address the environmental impacts associated with such operations at this or any other site. Overall, the operations will have only nonsignificant impacts on the area because they affect only a small amount of property. All sites are limited to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant and any associated equipment. There may be nonsignificant impacts created by traffic on haul roads; however, the authorizing agent of the road is required to take reasonable precautions to reduce fugitive emissions.

## POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Social Structures and Mores
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity
8. Distribution of Population

There will be no disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities from this operation. The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area will not be impacted by this operation. No additional or less housing will be required due to this operation.

3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment
9. Demands of Government Services

The operations will have little, if any, affects to the local and state tax base and tax revenue. This operation is not a permanent, stationary operation at any one site. Activities associated with this type of operation usually do not greatly affect the quality and distribution of employment in the area. Employees of the company travel with the equipment to various sites, however, local workers may be hired for short-term employment. The only government services demanded for this project will be acquiring the appropriate permits from government agencies.

4. Agricultural or Industrial Production
10. Industrial and Commercial Activity

Operations will not displace any agricultural production. This operation is very small by industrial standards and will therefore have only nonsignificant impact on local industrial production. More than likely, the activities will only employ people from the company. It is possible that company employees may stay in the area during the short-term project. No additional industrial or commercial activity is expected as a result of the operations.

5. Human Health

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 and will therefore constitute nonsignificant impacts.

6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The operations will not affect access to recreational and wilderness activities. However, nonsignificant affects to the quality of recreational and wilderness activities may be created by the aesthetics and noise from the site.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

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 industry.

## 12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

There is potential for other portable operations to locate at this site. However, any such operation would have to apply for and hold the appropriate permits/contracts from the DEQ, prior to operation. These permits/contracts will address the environmental impacts associated with such operations at this or any other site. Overall, the operations will have only nonsignificant impacts on the area because they affect only a small amount of land. All sites are limited to total particulate emissions of 250 tons/year or less from the plant and any associated equipment. There may be nonsignificant impacts created by traffic on haul roads, however, the authorizing agent of the road is required to take reasonable precautions to reduce fugitive emissions.

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 #3020-00 will further limit the emissions.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction. None

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

EA prepared by: Lana Hedlund  
Date: 08/26/98