

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Moore Site

Proposed Implementation Date: 1998

Proponent: Hill County

Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant proposes to mine, crush, stockpile and haul a total of 10,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from a 4.82 acre site which is located 2 miles west and 5 miles south of the town of Inverness. The estimated start-up date is 1998. The pit will be reclaimed to farmland by grading slopes to at least 5:1, topsoiling and seeding to crops. Final reclamation would be by July 1, 2001.

Location: NW¼ NE¼ Sec. 5, T31N, R8E

County: Hill

N = Not present or No Impact will occur.

Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts).

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>[N] The topsoil is approximately six to eight inches of sandy loam. All soil material will be salvaged and stockpiled away from the affected land. Following mining, grading and ripping, the soils will be replaced on the pit and seeded. Microbes will re-colonize the soil.</p>
<p>2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?</p>	<p>[N] The nearest water is an intermittent stream in a coulee located in the southeast quarter of the section. The site will be mined to a depth of 7 feet which is 7 to 15 feet above groundwater.</p> <p>Special precautions will be taken to minimize possible contamination of the surface and groundwater. A portable crusher and other equipment with fuel tanks will be used in various places within the site. Any accidental spills or leaks from equipment will be excavated and disposed. With these precautions, the quality and quantity of the groundwater should not be adversely impacted.</p>
<p>3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[Y] Crushers, loaders and trucking equipment typically cause dusty conditions in disturbed soil sites. Applicable federal regulations for air quality which are implemented by the state are the Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources, 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart OOO (Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants). Subpart OOO sets an opacity limitation on fugitive dust emissions from the gravel crushing and handling operations.</p>
<p>4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[Y] Vegetation consists of native pasture including prairie junegrass, blue gramma, and an annual crop which is fallow at this time. All vegetation will be removed and the area will be replanted with crops. No rare or endangered plants have been identified in the area.</p>
<p>5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[N] Although the area is used primarily for grazing and crops, it also supports populations of deer, rodents, song birds, coyotes, foxes, insects and various other animal species.</p> <p>The proposed mine will displace these species during mining activity, but most use will resume use of the area upon reclamation. Mining activities are not expected to significantly degrade wildlife populations.</p>

6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N]
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] Although there are important cultural values in the general area, a surface reconnaissance did not discover any cultural, historical or archeological resources. The operator will give appropriate protection to any values or artifacts discovered in the affected area. If significant resources are found, the operation will be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be conducted. The State Historical Preservation Office will be promptly notified.
8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[N] There is noise from the crusher and other noise generating equipment such as truck traffic hauling to various areas of the project. These impacts are intermittent and of relatively short duration. There is a temporary deterioration of aesthetics while the operation is under way.
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 the project?	[N]
10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N]

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] This activity should not significantly affect human health. The operator will employ proper precautions to avoid accidents.
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] The site will be taken out of grazing and farming during mining. The area will be reclaimed to crops land upon completion of mining.
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N]
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[Y] The operation will require periodic site evaluations by DEQ staff until such time as the site is successfully reclaimed to the required post-mining use. However, these evaluations are usually performed in conjunction with other area operations.
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[Y] Zoning has been approved by the county.
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[N]

