

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
Air and Waste Management Bureau  
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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

**RECEIVED**

**OCT 09 1998**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL**

*Issued For:* Polson Ready Mix Concrete, Inc.  
57093 Highway 93  
Polson, MT 59860

*Permit Number:* 3023-00

*Preliminary Determination on Permit Issued:* 10/07/98

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

*Legal Description of Site:* The plant site is located at NW 1/4, Section 23, Range 6 East, Township 47 North, in Mineral County, MT.

*Description of Project:* Polson Ready Mix proposes to use this concrete batch plant and associated equipment to produce concrete for use in their construction operations.

For a typical operational setup, washed coarse and fine aggregate for concrete production are stored on site. The material will be transferred by loader from the stockpiles to a conveyor and into the storage bins. The bins will dump onto a weigh batcher, then onto another conveyor for transfer to the mixer truck. Cement is then transferred, by gravity, onto another weigh batcher then directly into the mixer truck. A baghouse controls emissions from cement transfer.

*Benefits and Purpose of Proposal:* Increased business and revenue for the company.

*Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider:* None available.

*A listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency:* A listing of the enforceable permit conditions and a permit analysis, including a Best Available Control Technology analysis, is contained in permit #3023-00.

*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 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 Included
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 Resource			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							
		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Included
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

## Potential Impact on Physical Environment

### 1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats

This permitting action will result in an increase in allowable PM-10 emissions at the site. If actual PM-10 emissions increase, minor impacts to the habitats of fish and wildlife may occur. Habitat impacts could result in a change in the diversity or abundance of terrestrial or aquatic life.

### 2. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

The actions addressed in this permit will not result in a change in the amount or characteristics of surface water discharged or the alteration of the course or magnitude of any drainage system. This action does not result in a change in the quality or quantity of ground water. Therefore, no impact to water quality, quantity and distribution is anticipated.

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

The concrete batch facility will be utilizing stockpiled materials and not working within an existing or new pit. Therefore, the proposed action will not change the soil stability or geologic substructure or result in any increased disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, or moisture loss which would reduce productivity or fertility at or near the site. No unique geologic or physical features will be disturbed. Therefore, no impacts to geology and soil quality, stability and moisture are anticipated.

### 4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality

The increase in allowable PM-10 emissions may result in minor impacts to the diversity, productivity, or abundance of plant species.

### 5. Aesthetics

The proposed action will bring industrial equipment to the site creating minor aesthetic displeasure. However, the facility is a portable source and, therefore, is only temporary.

### 6. Air Quality

The analysis completed as part of permit application #3023-00 did not demonstrate any violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Therefore any impacts to air quality in the area are expected to be minor.

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

This permitting action may result in minor impacts to terrestrial and aquatic life and/or their habitat; therefore, it is possible that unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species may experience minor impacts. However, the department is not aware of any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species in the area surrounding the facility.

**8. Demands on Environmental Resources**

The concrete batch plant will not require substantial quantities of water, air, or energy resources for proper and ordinary operation. In general, the operations are seasonal, therefore resulting in a reduced demand on environmental resources.

**9. Historical and Archaeological Sites**

This permitting action does not include any facility action that would result in disturbing greater land surface. Therefore, no impacts to any historical and archaeological sites are anticipated.

**10. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts**

Minor cumulative and secondary impacts, as a result of potential actual emission increases in addition to the facilities emissions allowed under permit #3023-00, are possible. Additional PM-10 emission may result in minor cumulative and secondary impacts to terrestrial and aquatic habitats and air quality.

**Potential Impact on Human Environment**

**1. Social Structures and Mores**

The permitted facility is a portable source and, therefore, will operate within the site on a temporary basis. Permit #3023-00 will not create an environment conducive to the alteration of social structures and mores.

**2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity**

The permitted facility is a portable source and, therefore, will operate within the site on a temporary basis. Permit #3023-00 will not create an environment conducive to the disruption of cultural uniqueness and diversity.

**3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue**

The permitted facility is a portable source and, therefore, will operate within the site on a temporary basis. Permit #3023-00 will not significantly alter local and state tax base and tax revenue.

**4. Agricultural or Industrial Production**

The concrete batch operations are not associated with agriculture and, due to the temporary nature of the source, industrial impact will be minor.

**5. Human Health**

The permit #3023-00 incorporates conditions and limitations to ensure that the plant will be operated in compliance with applicable rules and standards. These rules and standards have been designed to be protective of human health.

6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The actions permitted will not alter any existing access to and quality of any recreational or wilderness area.

7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

The actions permitted in permit #3023-00 are not anticipated to result in any impacts to the quantity and distribution of employment at the facility or surrounding community.

8. Distribution of Population

Permit #3023-00 and the current permit action represent a temporary transfer of location into the area in question. Therefore, the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population and the cultural uniqueness or diversity of the community surrounding the facility will be slightly altered. The fundamental moral views of a social group are not anticipated to be altered as a result of this permitting action.

9. Demands for Government Services

The operation of this concrete batch plant will demand increased government services by requiring the appropriate permits, and compliance inspections. In addition the operation of the plant will produce a minor increase in local traffic. The overall impact of the concrete batch plant operation's demand for government services will be minor.

10. Industrial and Commercial Activity

Industrial production and commercial activity will be slightly increased within the area while the facility is in operation.

11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

Permit #3023-00 should not affect any locally adopted environmental plans or goals because it does not result in any significant increase in actual emissions.

12. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The two primary vehicles for impact upon human health are water and air. Since there are possibly minor air quality impacts from permit #3023-00, cumulative human health impacts are possible from the facility.

*Recommendation:* An EIS not required.

*If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis:* The source is applying the Best Available Control Technology; the analyses indicates compliance with all applicable air quality rules and regulations.

*Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:* None

*Individuals or groups contributing to this EA:* Department of Environmental Quality - Air and Waste Management Bureau.

*EA prepared by:* M. Eric Merchant, MPH

*Date:* October 2, 1998