

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Poncelet

Proposed Implementation Date: Expansion of existing operation

Proponent: Montana Ready Mix

Type and Purpose of Action: The proponent proposes to mine, crush, stockpile and transport 90,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from a 21.6-acre site to provide the local market with sand and gravel products. The site has been previously stripped of all topsoil in the past. The site would be reclaimed as industrial warehouse-type building sites. An asphalt plant and a batch plant may be set up at the site at various times. Final reclamation on the site would be completed by 2009.

Location: SW¹, Sec. 2, T1S, R4E

County: Gallatin

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 site is located within the Gallatin Valley in the southwest area of Belgrade within an area used for industrial and commercial purposes. The entire area has been previously disturbed by mining and other activities.</p> <p>There are no soils as they were previously removed from the site.</p> <p>There are no fragile, compactible or unstable soils present, no unusual geologic features or special reclamation considerations.</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] There are several water wells within 1,000 feet. The water table is estimated to be at 58 feet. The site would be mined to a depth of 15 feet.</p> <p>There are three irrigation ditches to the east and north of the operation. The ditches would not be impacted.</p> <p>Any accidental spills of petroleum-based products would be immediately picked up and properly disposed of. There should be no impact to ground or surface water sources.</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>[N] There would be an increase in airborne particulates while the gravel being crushed and hauled, asphalt plant and batch plants are operating. The applicant would need to secure Air Quality Permits from the Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality prior to crushing activities and for the asphalt and batch plants and must abide with all applicable air quality guidelines. Spray bars will be placed on the crusher to suppress dust. The hard stand areas, soil stockpiles, and haul roads would be watered as necessary.</p>
<p>4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[N] There is no vegetation on the site. The proponent is working with the Montana Dept. of Transportation to establish trees along the west side of the area, bordering the interstate highway. The Montana Natural Heritage Program literature search did not identify any rare plants or cover types as being present in the area.</p>

5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] Due to all of the commercial and industrial activities and the lack of habitat there is no use by wildlife or birds.
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] The Montana Natural Heritage Program has not identified any threatened or endangered plant or animal species present on this site. A ground search did not reveal the presence of any federal listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat or species of special concern. There are no wetlands present on the site of the proposed operation. See 5 above.
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] Modern man has previously impacted the site and any cultural resources would have been destroyed. Should a significant archaeological or historical value be found, the operation would be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made. The State Historic Preservation Office would 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?	[Y] The operation is located next to Interstate 15, but the area surrounding the site is heavily impacted by various commercial and industrial activities. The proponent is working with the Montana Dept, of Transportation to establish a screen of trees along the boundary between the operation and the interstate.
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	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[Y] The use of heavy mining and hauling equipment will increase the risk of accidents. However, the applicant must comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations and it is expected that safety considerations will be given the utmost attention. There is a MPC natural gas pipeline along the west border between the Interstate right of way and the boundary of the operation. This pipeline is well marked and would not be impacted by the operation.
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N]
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?	[N] The site would require periodic site evaluations by DEQ staff, however they would generally be conducted in conjunction with other regional sites.

