

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Project Name:** Lockman

**Proposed Implementation Date:** Sept. 99

**Proponent:** C&W Enterprises, Inc.

**Type and Purpose of Action:** The proponent proposes to mine, crush and stockpile 40,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from a 10.4-acre site for roads within the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. The sand and gravel would be transported from the site at a later date. The proponent would salvage soils, mine sand and gravel, recontour, resoil and the landowner would seed the site with grain. The reclaimed use would be grainfield. Reclamation on the site would be completed by December 31, 1999.

**Location:** SW¼ NE¼, Sec. 29, T28N, R51E    **County:** Roosevelt

**N = Not present or No Impact will occur.**

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

<b>IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>RESOURCE</b>	<b>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b>
<p><b>1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:</b> Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p><b>[N]</b> The proposed site is located on a terrace on east side of the valley containing the Poplar River, and is approximately 3.5 miles northeast of Poplar. There are working gravel pits to the west, south, and north.</p> <p>The soils are a sandy loam texture approximately 6 inches deep. The overburden is approximately 4 inches deep. The soil and overburden would be stripped and salvaged separately and after regrading and replacement of the overburden the soil would be replaced. Microorganisms should invade the site.</p> <p>There are no fragile, compactible or unstable soils present, no unusual geologic features or special reclamation considerations.</p>
<p><b>2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:</b> 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><b>[N]</b> There are no water wells within 1,000 feet. The water table is estimated to be at 10 feet. The site would be mined to a depth of 8 feet. There is a shallow pond created by mining in the active pit to the west. The proposed operation would have no effect on this pond.</p> <p>Any accidental spills of petroleum-based products would be immediately picked up and properly disposed of. If necessary, the applicant would install straw bales and/or silt fence to control any off site erosion or sedimentation. There should be no impact to ground or surface water sources.</p>
<p><b>3. AIR QUALITY:</b> Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p><b>[Y]</b> Crushers, dozers, scrapers and loaders typically cause odors and dusty conditions in disturbed soil sites. Water bars, road watering and other dust controls will be used as necessary. The site is located within a Class 1 airshed. Air quality may be degraded and there may be an increase in particulate matter, but the operator must obtain air quality permits and abide by federal air quality regulations as they are applied on reservations.</p> <p>The operator must comply with applicable federal regulations for air quality contained in the Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and 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><b>4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</b> Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[N] There is currently no vegetation on the site as the grain crop was recently harvested from the site. Grain would be seeded upon regrading and retopsoiling. The Montana Natural Heritage Program literature search and a ground survey did not identify any rare plants or cover types as being present in the area.</p>
<p><b>5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:</b> Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[N] Various mammals, birds, and reptiles occasionally traverse the site.</p>
<p><b>6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</b> Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?</p>	<p>[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.</p>
<p><b>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:</b> Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] A ground and literature search has been done on the site in the past and no cultural resources were discovered. Modern man has previously modified the site. 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.</p>
<p><b>8. AESTHETICS:</b> Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>[N] The operation is of a temporary nature.</p>
<p><b>9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:</b> Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p><b>10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</b> Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>[N]</p>

<p align="center"><b>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b></p>	
<p align="center"><b>RESOURCE</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</b></p>
<p><b>11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:</b> Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>[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.</p>
<p><b>12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:</b> Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>[N] 10.4 acres would be temporarily removed from agricultural production (grain production) until such time as the site is fully reclaimed.</p>
<p><b>13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:</b> Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p><b>14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:</b> Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p><b>15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:</b> Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?</p>	<p>[N] The site would require periodic site evaluations by DEQ staff, however they would generally be conducted in conjunction with other regional sites.</p>

