

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

February 29, 2000

Project Name: Larson Site

Proposed Implementation Date: February 29, 2000

Proponent: Jensen Paving Company

Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant proposes to mine, crush and transport 25,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from a 4-acre site located 4 miles east of Bonner. The site would be mined to a depth of 20 feet and would daylight out into the old gravel pit northeast of the pit. The reclaimed use would be horse pasture. The site would be reclaimed by re-contouring, re-topsoiling the mine area and reseeding the site with grasses. The slopes of the pit would be reduced to at least 3:1. The facility area of the site would be located on a poorly reclaimed portion of the old gravel pit and reclamation would improve that portion the site as it exists now. Reclamation would be completed by November of 2000.

Location: S½ SE¼, Sec. 12, T13N, R18W

County: Missoula

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 their unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed operation is located along the Blackfoot River in an alluvial river bench of sands and gravels of the Quaternary to Recent geologic age. The proponent would mine to a depth of 20 feet which is well above the low water table. The mine area would have all available soil stripped and salvaged. The mine will have 12 inches of soil material stripped and salvaged. The soil is a silty sandy loam and would be salvaged from the mine area. Soil microbes should re-colonize the soils. There are no fragile, compactible, or unstable soils present, 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] The Blackfoot River is located approximately 100 feet northeast. The site would be mined with dozers and front-end loaders. The minesite is located up on a river bench 20 to 30 feet above the river and there is positive gradient for drainage away from the river. There would be no discharge from the pit area. There are 15 water wells in Section 12 (see list below), but only the Larson well is near the minesite. No bulk fuel storage tanks will be used. The proponent will not need to obtain a Stormwater Discharge Permit from the Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality, but will implement best management practices to prevent any off site erosion or sedimentation.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Groundwater Information Center Report for 15 Well Records in Township 13N Range 18W Section 12 Retrieved: 2/29/00 13:30:55</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: x-small;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Site Name</th> <th style="text-align: center;">¼</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total Depth</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Pump Water Level</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Static Water Level</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Yield</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Who Drilled</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>GARY INCE CONSTRUCTION</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">100</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">60</td><td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td>JEROME</td><td style="text-align: center;">01/02/1990</td></tr> <tr><td>LARSON DAVE</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">79</td><td style="text-align: center;">79</td><td style="text-align: center;">34</td><td style="text-align: center;">75</td><td>CAMP</td><td style="text-align: center;">08/16/1985</td></tr> <tr><td>TANDE DAVID</td><td style="text-align: center;">BC</td><td style="text-align: center;">60</td><td style="text-align: center;">40</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">100</td><td>CAMP</td><td style="text-align: center;">01/21/1994</td></tr> <tr><td>EVENSON DALE M</td><td style="text-align: center;">CD</td><td style="text-align: center;">86</td><td style="text-align: center;">65</td><td style="text-align: center;">63</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td>CKC</td><td style="text-align: center;">09/19/1976</td></tr> <tr><td>ANDERSON LIBBY</td><td style="text-align: center;">D</td><td style="text-align: center;">47</td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">50</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">01/01/1939</td></tr> <tr><td>RENFRO DICK</td><td style="text-align: center;">D</td><td style="text-align: center;">83</td><td style="text-align: center;">60</td><td style="text-align: center;">57</td><td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td>CKC</td><td style="text-align: center;">11/06/1980</td></tr> <tr><td>SKINNER ROBERT</td><td style="text-align: center;">D</td><td style="text-align: center;">83</td><td style="text-align: center;">70</td><td style="text-align: center;">65</td><td style="text-align: center;">40</td><td>KANE</td><td style="text-align: center;">09/27/1976</td></tr> <tr><td>FOY CLIFFORD</td><td style="text-align: center;">DC</td><td style="text-align: center;">61</td><td style="text-align: center;">33</td><td style="text-align: center;">33</td><td style="text-align: center;">75</td><td>CAMP</td><td style="text-align: center;">08/14/1969</td></tr> <tr><td>MCGEOCH ROBERT</td><td style="text-align: center;">DC</td><td style="text-align: center;">37</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td>LIBERTY</td><td style="text-align: center;">12/17/1962</td></tr> <tr><td>MCGEOCH ROBERT & VERNA M.</td><td style="text-align: center;">DC</td><td style="text-align: center;">53</td><td style="text-align: center;">42</td><td style="text-align: center;">31</td><td style="text-align: center;">60</td><td>LIBERTY</td><td style="text-align: center;">03/28/1966</td></tr> <tr><td>OLSON P. JOHN OR CATHERINE</td><td style="text-align: center;">DC</td><td style="text-align: center;">52</td><td style="text-align: center;">42</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td><td style="text-align: center;">60</td><td>LIBERTY</td><td style="text-align: center;">03/29/1966</td></tr> <tr><td>SYMES ROBERT</td><td style="text-align: center;">DC</td><td style="text-align: center;">60</td><td style="text-align: center;">45</td><td style="text-align: center;">45</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td>CAMP</td><td style="text-align: center;">08/18/1967</td></tr> <tr><td>HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH</td><td style="text-align: center;">DD</td><td style="text-align: center;">99</td><td style="text-align: center;">80</td><td style="text-align: center;">59</td><td style="text-align: center;">50</td><td>CAMP</td><td style="text-align: center;">06/04/1996</td></tr> <tr><td>PANKHURST CAROL</td><td style="text-align: center;">DD</td><td style="text-align: center;">103</td><td style="text-align: center;">95</td><td style="text-align: center;">55</td><td style="text-align: center;">100</td><td>CAMP</td><td style="text-align: center;">09/21/1995</td></tr> <tr><td>POWELL RAY</td><td style="text-align: center;">DDC</td><td style="text-align: center;">84</td><td style="text-align: center;">70</td><td style="text-align: center;">65</td><td style="text-align: center;">40</td><td>KANE</td><td style="text-align: center;">09/30/1976</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Name	¼	Total Depth	Pump Water Level	Static Water Level	Yield	Who Drilled	Date	GARY INCE CONSTRUCTION		100		60	30	JEROME	01/02/1990	LARSON DAVE		79	79	34	75	CAMP	08/16/1985	TANDE DAVID	BC	60	40	27	100	CAMP	01/21/1994	EVENSON DALE M	CD	86	65	63	25	CKC	09/19/1976	ANDERSON LIBBY	D	47			50		01/01/1939	RENFRO DICK	D	83	60	57	30	CKC	11/06/1980	SKINNER ROBERT	D	83	70	65	40	KANE	09/27/1976	FOY CLIFFORD	DC	61	33	33	75	CAMP	08/14/1969	MCGEOCH ROBERT	DC	37	17	17	21	LIBERTY	12/17/1962	MCGEOCH ROBERT & VERNA M.	DC	53	42	31	60	LIBERTY	03/28/1966	OLSON P. JOHN OR CATHERINE	DC	52	42	29	60	LIBERTY	03/29/1966	SYMES ROBERT	DC	60	45	45	15	CAMP	08/18/1967	HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	DD	99	80	59	50	CAMP	06/04/1996	PANKHURST CAROL	DD	103	95	55	100	CAMP	09/21/1995	POWELL RAY	DDC	84	70	65	40	KANE	09/30/1976
Site Name	¼	Total Depth	Pump Water Level	Static Water Level	Yield	Who Drilled	Date																																																																																																																										
GARY INCE CONSTRUCTION		100		60	30	JEROME	01/02/1990																																																																																																																										
LARSON DAVE		79	79	34	75	CAMP	08/16/1985																																																																																																																										
TANDE DAVID	BC	60	40	27	100	CAMP	01/21/1994																																																																																																																										
EVENSON DALE M	CD	86	65	63	25	CKC	09/19/1976																																																																																																																										
ANDERSON LIBBY	D	47			50		01/01/1939																																																																																																																										
RENFRO DICK	D	83	60	57	30	CKC	11/06/1980																																																																																																																										
SKINNER ROBERT	D	83	70	65	40	KANE	09/27/1976																																																																																																																										
FOY CLIFFORD	DC	61	33	33	75	CAMP	08/14/1969																																																																																																																										
MCGEOCH ROBERT	DC	37	17	17	21	LIBERTY	12/17/1962																																																																																																																										
MCGEOCH ROBERT & VERNA M.	DC	53	42	31	60	LIBERTY	03/28/1966																																																																																																																										
OLSON P. JOHN OR CATHERINE	DC	52	42	29	60	LIBERTY	03/29/1966																																																																																																																										
SYMES ROBERT	DC	60	45	45	15	CAMP	08/18/1967																																																																																																																										
HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	DD	99	80	59	50	CAMP	06/04/1996																																																																																																																										
PANKHURST CAROL	DD	103	95	55	100	CAMP	09/21/1995																																																																																																																										
POWELL RAY	DDC	84	70	65	40	KANE	09/30/1976																																																																																																																										

3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[Y] Air quality will be degraded, but the proponent must control dust generated from the site.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] Vegetation on the site of the proposed operation consists of pasture grasses such as timothy, bluegrass, orchard grass, alfalfa, has a heavy infestation of knapweed and covers 60% of the ground. A literature search was done by the Montana Natural Heritage Program and no threatened or endangered plants or animals or rare plants or cover types were identified at the site and none were identified during a ground search. A sensitive plant, the Howell's Gum-weed was seen 1¼ miles west of the site in 1984 alongside the highway.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] The site may be utilized to some extent by deer, rodents, and various species of 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?	[Y] A ground search was conducted and no threatened or endangered species or identified habitats were found on the site. Westslope Cutthroat trout inhabit the Blackfoot River in this area and peregrine falcons have an historic eyrie two miles from the minesite. And, of course, the ever-popular Magnipelta mycophaga (Spotted Slug), who was last seen in 1957, could be seen at any time under damp, cool logs and stones. It is highly unlikely that this proposed operation would impact these species due to the lack of suitable habitat on the site.
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] A ground reconnaissance was conducted and no resources were found.
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 proposed operation is located along Hwy 200 and is somewhat visible to traffic on the highway. The project is short-termed with reclamation being planned for no later than November of 2000.
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] There will be increased hazards because of the equipment activity and hauling of the sand and gravel. The applicant must comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations however, proper precautions will be taken to avoid accidents.
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]

