

DEQ OPENCUT MINING PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Bartel Gravel Stockpile Site

Proposed Implementation Date: Ongoing

Proponent: Wolf Point Sand & Gravel

Type and Purpose of Action: Proponent has submitted an application to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a 5-acre permit to retain a portion of the recently completed Prince mine operation for the purpose of mine material stockpile storage until the stockpiles are depleted. The site is located on a relatively flat bench in rolling hill and bench country. The present land use of the surrounding area is rangeland. Prince has reclaimed their disturbance area on the west, south, and east sides of the site. There are no other significant features in the area.

Proponent has submitted all application materials required under the Opencut Mining Act and the Rules and Regulations governing the Act. They propose to store the mine material stockpiles until depleted then reclaim the area to grazing land. Proponent is legally bound through their reclamation permit to reclaim the site.

Location: SWSW1, T29N, R46E

County: Roosevelt

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? Is any on-site waste disposal planned? Are any special reclamation features planned? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>[Y] Geology and Topography. The proposed site is in the glaciated sedimentary plains portion of the state. There are no unusual geologic features.</p> <p>Soil and Overburden. The soil has already been salvaged and stockpiled by Prince. All salvaged soil material will be used for future reclamation</p> <p>Roads, Waste Disposal, and Grading. There is a several hundred foot long access road to the stockpile area that will be reclaimed upon final reclamation. There should be no need to bury any waste on site except any remaining work area surface materials. The site will be reclaimed to relatively flat rangeland. It does not appear that surface water or groundwater needs to be taken into consideration in the grading plan. The site will be blended into the surrounding topography.</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] Surface Water. The site is on a high and dry bench.</p> <p>Groundwater and Wells. Groundwater does not appear to be a factor at this site. There are no wells in the area that could be affected.</p> <p>Other. The operator has committed to proper on-site fuel storage and to taking appropriate measures to protect surface and groundwater.</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] Pollutants and particulates will be produced when the operator is occasionally loading trucks.</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] Premining Vegetation. The site vegetation consisted of native rangeland.</p> <p>Postmining Vegetation. The site will be seeded to a predominately native grass seed mix.</p> <p>Site Protection and Weed Control. Proponent will implement adequate site protection and management measures until seeded vegetation is established. They will control noxious weeds as specified by the local weed district.</p> <p>The Montana Natural Heritage Program reports no occurrences of plants of special concern on record for the area. Abundant similar habitat exists 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] The Montana Natural Heritage Program reports no occurrences of animals of special concern on record for the area. Abundant similar habitat exists in the area.</p>
<p>6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or an endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?</p>	<p>[N] None of the mentioned resources appear to be present. Similar habitat is abundant in the area. No wetland, riparian, or other uncommon habitat will be affected.</p>
<p>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] If cultural resources are found during site use, proponent has committed to promptly notifying the State Historic Preservation Office and routing the operation around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[Y] The site is in a rural area and will be used on a short-term basis. There are no nearby residences. The aesthetic impact will be minimal.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] The operation will not use resources that are limited in the area. The operation should not affect or be affected by other activities in the area.</p>
<p>10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans, or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>[N] Author is not aware of any environmental studies, plans, or projects on this tract.</p>

IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>[N] This project should not significantly increase health and safety risks in the area if the proponent and landowner manage the operation and site in a responsible manner. Proponent is required to comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations.</p>
<p>12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>[N] Five acres will remain temporarily out of agricultural production.</p>
<p>13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move, or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>[N] No significant impacts are anticipated.</p>
<p>14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>[N] Tax revenues have not been significantly affected by similar projects in the state.</p>
<p>15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?</p>	<p>[N] Proponent will use public roads to distribute their product. No other government services should be significantly affected.</p>

