

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**SITE:** Arneson **APPLICANT:** Sweetgrass County

**LOCATION:** SW of Sec 24 T2N R14E **COUNTY:** Sweetgrass

**APPLICATION COMPLETE:** December, 2002 **E.A. COMPLETE:** December, 2002

**ACRES:** 8 **FINAL RECLAMATION:** September, 2003

**Proposed Action:** The county proposes to mine and, if necessary, to crush 20,000 yds<sup>3</sup> of fractured rock from the tops of sandstone knobs and outcrops. The lowest mining area would be about 30 feet above the closest ephemeral stream. The product would be used to maintain county road in the area. The site would be concurrently reclaimed and final reclamation would be by September, 2003.

**A:** Significant Unavoidable Impacts **B:** Insignificant as a result of conditioned mitigation **C:** Insignificant as proposed

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u>			X	X		Dry knobs, gullies in eroded plains
2. <u>GEOLOGY</u> ; Stability			X		X	Highly fractured Cretaceous sandstones. Often does not require crushing
3. <u>SOILS</u> ; Quality, Distribution			X		X	Poor quality, sandy silts, 0 to 4 inches, Little vegetation
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality; Quantity; Distribution			X		X	No surface water. Groundwater is about 30 feet below mining level. Small developed spring near corrals about quarter mile away.
5. <u>AIR</u> ; Quality			X		X	Crusher has valid Air permit.
6. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, or LIMITED</u> environmental resources			X		X	None
<b>BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, and AQUATIC</u> ; species and habitats			X		X	Resident deer, antelope, rabbits, gophers, song birds, raptors, no riparian or wetland habitat. No endangered, threatened, or species of special concern.
2. <u>VEGETATION</u> ; quantity, quality, species			X		X	Some range grasses, sage, juniper. Mine areas are almost bare.
3. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops production			X		X	Rangeland
<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>SOCIAL</u> ; structures and mores			X		X	
2. <u>CULTURAL</u> uniqueness, diversity			X		X	

	A	B	C	POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
				LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
3. <u>POPULATION</u> ; quantity and diversity			X		X	Sparsely populated.
4. <u>HOUSING</u> ; quantity and distribution			X		X	
5. <u>HUMAN HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</u>			X		X	
6. <u>COMMUNITY &amp; PERSONAL INCOME</u>			X		X	
7. <u>EMPLOYMENT</u> ; quantity and distribution			X		X	
8. <u>TAX BASE</u> ; local and state tax revenue			X		X	
9. <u>GOVERNMENT SERVICES</u> ; demand			X		X	
10. <u>INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL</u> and <u>AGRICULTURAL</u> activities			X		X	
11. <u>HISTORICAL</u> and <u>ARCHAEOLOGICAL</u>			X		X	No prehistoric sites or artifacts encountered
12. <u>AESTHETICS</u>			X		X	
13. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS</u> and <u>GOALS</u> ; local and regional			X		X	
14. <u>DEMANDS</u> on <u>ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</u> of land, Water, air and energy			X		X	
15. <u>TRANSPORTATION</u> ; networks and traffic flows			X		X	Maintain roads for safety and commerce

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Landowner, Sweetgrass County Commissioners, Sweetgrass County Weed Board, Natural Heritage Program, State Historic Preservation Office,

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: Denial

COMPLIANCE STATUS:

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PREPARATION OF AN EIS: Unnecessary, No Significant Impacts

OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION: Air & Waste Management Bureau & Mining Safety and Health

Prepared by Jo Stephen, December 31, 2002

Approved by Jerry Burke

Signature

Date