

September 12, 2006

Dear Reader:

Rocky Mountain Stone of Bozeman, P.O. Box 6, Bozeman, MT 59771 filed an application on May 5, 2006 and a revised application on June 29, 2006 for an Operating Permit. Rocky Mountain Stone, Inc. will use hand tools, skidders, and a loader to pick up sandstone rock and boulders for landscaping and masonry purposes from six sites. Five sites would be on private land in Sections 34 and 35, Township 7 North, Range 16 East and Section 2, Township 6 North, Range 16 East. The other site would be on State of Montana land in Section 2, Township 6 North, Range 15 East. The sites are located about ten miles south and southeast of Harlowton, MT.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a Draft Checklist Environmental Analysis (CEA) on June 30, 2006 evaluating the potential impacts from the rock picking and sandstone removal and asking for comments on the proposed operation. The Draft CEA addressed issues and concerns raised during public involvement and from agency scoping. One comment was received on the Draft CEA.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) stated in a letter dated July 12, 2006 that it administers some of the sites that contain federally owned minerals. The agencies have decided to approve the permit as proposed contingent on Rocky Mountain Stone obtaining approval from the BLM on the sites with federal mineral ownership and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation on State of Montana land. The permit is also approved contingent on posting a reclamation bond in the amount of \$8,340.

Following are the approved permit conditions:

Potential Life of Mine Area: 160 acres  
Permit Area: 100 acres  
Permitted Disturbance: 38 acres  
Bonded Acres: 38 acres  
Bond: \$8,340

Permitted Disturbance: Currently, 38 acres out of a 100 acre permit area covering six separate sites are permitted to be disturbed at any one time during the life of the permit. This could change over time as new sites could be added through amendment or revisions after environmental analysis. Most of the 160 acres will be disturbed over the life of the permit, but concurrent reclamation will limit the total of disturbed and unreclaimed acres at any one time.

Information on the Rocky Mountain Stone operating permit application can be obtained by writing or calling the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, c/o Herb Rolfes, P. O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, telephone (406) 444-3841; e-mail address hrolfes@mt.gov.

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Warren D. McCullough, Chief  
Environmental Management Bureau

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Date

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