

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

INDUSTRIAL & ENERGY MINERALS BUREAU OPENCUT MINING PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Proponent: Franz Construction. Requesting Amendment #1, Permit FCI-002
Site: Rau Pit
Legal: NWSE Sec 15, T22N, R59E
County: Richland
Approved Contract & Amendment #'s: FCI-002

Type and Purpose of Action: Proponent has applied for an amendment to add 2 acres to the permit area, and to change the final reclamation date to December, 2010. The total permitted area would become 5 acres. The bond has been increased to \$9,708. Final reclamation would remain as rangeland.

Site Description: Some oil storage tanks have been built at one corner of the site along the public roads. The site and surrounding area are steep clay and mudstone badlands above the Yellowstone River which is across the county road over a quarter mile to the west. The facility area is flat.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation: No adverse impacts are expected from this action. The mine material is mostly clay. Mining the amendment area would reduce a high point and allow at least some revegetation of the mostly barren ground. There will be no high wall reduction because it will better blend with the existing surrounding topography.

A small depression collects the stormwater. Cottonwoods, willows, and grasses have started growing there.

No archeological or cultural artifacts were discovered on this site. The site does not provide habitat for any species of special concern.

There are no exceptional mining and reclamation considerations. The amendment would not cause any significant impacts on the physical environment or human population. The proponent is legally bound through his reclamation permit with the state to reclaim the site. The previous Environmental Assessment is applicable to this action.

Prepared by: Jo Stephen, Reclamation Specialist, November 2006

Neil Harrington, Chief, Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau

Date