



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Brian Schweitzer, Governor
Richard H. Opper, Director

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • www.deq.mt.gov

March 28, 2010

Cowdrey Warehouse, Tracy Cowdrey, 500 E Kagy, Bozeman, MT 59715
Maureen Lohmeier, PO Box 4374, Bozeman, MT 59772-4374
Steiner Corporation, 505 E South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84102-1004
DNRC, Bruce Swick, PO Box 201601, Helena, 59620-1601
Tom Ellerhoff, Director Office, DEQ, Helena, MT 59620
Lisa Peterson, Director Office, DEQ, Helena, MT 59620
Environmental Quality Council, Capital Complex, Helena, MT 59620
Documents Section, State Library, Capital Complex, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. of Transportation, Greg Hahn, Land Section, Right-of-Way Bureau, Helena, MT 59620

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 17.4.609, the following Environmental Assessment has been prepared by the Department of Environmental Quality concerning Got Junkers Salvage proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility.

The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Environmental Assessment will be circulated for a period of thirty (30) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Meyer
Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Program
(406) 444-2835 or e-mail at brmeyer@mt.gov
Enc.
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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901
(406) 444-5300

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Division/Bureau: Permitting & Compliance \ Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Program

Project or Application Walter E. Grinn, Belgrade, MT - A proposed private auto wrecking facility.

Description of Project: Walter E. Grinn \ dba \ Got Junkers Salvage located at 131 Andrea Drive Unit 21, Belgrade, Montana, has submitted a motor vehicle wrecking facility license application to this department for review. The proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility will be in Gallatin County. This facility will be located at 131 Andrea Drive Unit 21, Belgrade, MT. The legal description of the facility is in Section 2, Township 1 South, Range 4 East. The shop is approximately 700 square feet in size and the storage lot is 2200 square feet outside. The facility is located at Bruce Industrial Park Subdivision, in unit 21, and lot 13.

Benefits and Purpose of Proposal: Walter E. Grinn is proposing to establish a motor vehicle wrecking facility at Belgrade, MT. As required by the Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Act, all wrecking facilities must be shielded from public view. "Public view" is defined as any point six (6) feet above the surface of the center of a public road from which the junk vehicles can be seen. By obtaining a motor vehicle wrecking facility license, Walter E. Grinn would be allowed to: (1) Buy, sell, or deal in four or more vehicles per year of a type required to be licensed, for the purpose of wrecking, dismantling, disassembling, or substantially altering the form of the motor vehicle, (2) Buy or sell component parts, in whole or in part, and deal in second-hand junk vehicles, and (3) Purchase wrecked vehicles from insurance companies. Insurance companies are required by state law to sell junk vehicles only to licensed motor vehicle wrecking facilities. This business would provide a commercial source of automotive parts which would provide a cost saving to the consumer and would conserve energy and natural resources otherwise used to manufacture new parts.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider:

Alternative #1. Not to establish and license a facility at this location. This would limit public access to used automotive parts.

Alternative #2. To establish and license a facility at a location other than the one proposed in the license application. This would require the applicant to find and acquire by purchase or lease a different parcel of property for the proposed usage.

Alternative #3. To establish and license a facility at the proposed location.

A listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by the agency or another government agency: Automotive fluids **must be** drained from the vehicles prior to the vehicle being placed in storage. All fluids removed from the vehicles must be captured over an impermeable surface, properly containerized, and properly stored for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal. This is a management method intended to alleviate the potential for groundwater contamination. This is a license condition enforceable by the agency.

CFCs (Freon) **must not** be released to the environment. This is a federally enforceable requirement and is enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Recommendation: N/A

If an EIS is needed, and if appropriate, explain the reasons for preparing the EA:
N/A

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis:
Based on the information submitted for review with the license application, it is the preliminary determination of the department that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will provide an adequate review for this proposal.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:
Gallatin County Commissioners.

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Montana Historical Society, and State Historic Preservation Office.

EA prepared by Bruce W. Meyer

Date: March 28, 2011

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Maj	Mod	Min	None	Unkn	Att
1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitat			xxx			xxx
2. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution			xxx			xxx
3. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture			xxx			xxx
4. Vegetation Cover, Quantity and Quality			xxx			xxx
5. Aesthetics				xxx		xxx
6. Air Quality				xxx		
7. Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources				xxx		
8. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy				xxx		
9. Historical and Archaeological Sites				xxx		xxx

*Maj = Major; Mod = Moderate; Min = Minor; Unkn = Unknown; Att = Attached

CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS: The impacts listed as minor in the table above will be minor to none, because of the intended management practices.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Maj	Mod	Min	None	Unkn	Att
1. Social Structure and Mores				xxx		
2. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				xxx		
3. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			xxx			xxx
4. Agricultural or Industrial Production				xxx		
5. Human Health				xxx		
6. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities				xxx		
7. Quantity and Distribution of Employment			xxx			xxx
8. Distribution of Population				xxx		
9. Demands for Government Services			xxx			xxx
10. Industrial and Commercial Activities				xxx		
11. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals				xxx		xxx

*Maj = Major; Mod = Moderate; Min = Minor; Unkn = Unknown; Att = Attached

CUMULATIVE AND SECONDARY IMPACTS: The impacts will be minor for local and state tax base and tax revenue due to the size of the facility. The quantity and distribution of employment will be minor to none because of the number employed. The demands for government services will be minor to none and will be covered by county staff and state staff.

**GOT JUNKERS SALVAGE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

General Comments

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality licenses and regulates motor vehicle wrecking facilities under the authority of the Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Act (75-10-501, MCA) and Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM 17.50.201).

To be eligible for licensing, a proposed wrecking facility must:

- 1) Be in compliance with all existing zoning ordinances on the date the license application is submitted to the department.
- 2) Be capable of being shielded from view of any existing public road. If the license application is approved, the applicant must construct all necessary shielding prior to the commencement of operations at the facility.
- 3) Not create any adverse environmental impacts.

The department has made the preliminary determination that the applicant is in compliance with the existing zoning ordinances as of the date of the submittal of the application and can effectively shield the proposed facility from all public roads in the area. The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to determine if the proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility can be established without posing significant adverse environmental impacts.

Potential Impacts on Physical Environment

1. Terrestrial & aquatic life habitats
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality

The proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility will be in Gallatin County. This facility will be located at 131 Andrea Drive Unit 21, Belgrade, MT. The legal description of the facility is in Section 2, Township 1 South, Range 4 East. The shop is approximately 700 square feet in size and storage lot is 2200 square feet. The facility is located at the Bruce Industrial Park Subdivision in unit 21, lot 13.

Other rental units in the Bruce Industrial Park Subdivision surround this wrecking facility. These units vary in size from 12 units to 8 units and house various types of businesses and many small storage units.

The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility should not disturb and displace any of the vegetation and wildlife habitat within the proposed location because the Bruce Industrial Park Subdivision is a highly developed area. The impacts caused by the wrecking facility should not be significant to the area's ecosystem.

2. Water quality, quantity, and distribution

There are many wells in the area of the proposed wrecking facility. The total depth of these wells range from 63' to 125' with a static water level at 50' below ground surface (BGS). This information was obtained from Department of Natural Resource & Conservation

All fluids removed from the vehicles must be captured over an impermeable surface, properly containerized, and properly stored for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal. The applicant is required to place automotive fluids in separate containers and recycle, reuse or properly dispose of these fluids on a timely basis.

This proposal is reasonably expected to not have any impacts on the quality, quantity, and distribution of the ground water with the above management practices in place.

3. Geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture

The dominant soils in the vicinity of the site are classified by the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service as Beaverell-Beavwan. The typical profile of Beaverell is 0 to 7 inches of cobbly loam, 7 to 20 inches of very cobbly loam, and 20 to 24 inches of extreme cobbly coarse sandy loam. The typical profile of Beavwan is 0 to 5 inches of loam, 5 to 15 inches of very clay loam, 15 to 22 inches of extreme cobbly sandy clay loam. This facility has a shop where all the fluids will be removed over an impermeable surface. This management practices will reduce any groundwater degradation.

Waste anti-freeze, gasoline, and lubricating oils may contain petroleum distillates, heavy metals, and possibly toxic compounds. If improperly disposed of these fluids can cause surface and groundwater degradation. The applicant proposes to properly recycle or reuse all of the above-named automotive fluids. Some residual lubricating oils and anti-freeze may drip from the vehicles stored at the facility. This residual dripping is not expected to cause any surface or groundwater degradation.

Aesthetics

The applicant has a shop where all work will be done. Junk vehicles will not be stored at this location. An onsite evaluation by department personnel determined that the building would be adequate to meet the requirements of the Motor Vehicle Recycling & Disposal Act.

"Public view" is defined as any point six (6) feet above the surface of the center of a public road from which the junk vehicles can be seen.

9. Historical and archaeological sites

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) conducted a cultural resource file search for this property. According to SHPO records, there has been one previously recorded historic site within the designated search locale. Site 24GA1096 is a historic railroad. In addition to the site there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area.

State Historic Preservation Office, therefore, feels that there is a low likelihood of cultural properties being impacted by the proposed facility. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during the project we would ask that SHPO office be contacted and the site investigated.

Potential Impacts on Human Environment

3. Local & state tax base & tax revenue
7. Quantity and distribution of employment

The establishment of the proposed motor vehicle wrecking facility may provide a source of used motor vehicles or component parts for sale to the public. The issuance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility license will allow the applicant to: (1) Buy, sell, or deal in four or more vehicles per year of a type required to be licensed for the purpose of wrecking, dismantling, disassembling, or substantially altering the form of the motor vehicle, (2) Buy or sell component parts, in whole or in part, and deal in second-hand motor vehicle parts, and (3) Purchase wrecked vehicles from insurance companies. Insurance companies are required by state law to sell junk vehicles only to licensed motor vehicle wrecking yards.

The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility may create an additional labor requirement and may result in additional employment. This employment and the employment requirements for the support services of this yard may provide a neutral to positive employment impact for the community.

9. Demands for governmental services

The issuance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility license will require administrative and inspection services of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Gallatin County Junk Vehicle Program personnel.

11. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals

The establishment of a motor vehicle wrecking facility at this location does not conflict with any existing zoning ordinances as certified by Jason Karp, Belgrade City-County Planner, City of Belgrade, Gallatin County, Belgrade, MT.

Effect on Adjoining Landowners and Land Uses Other Site-Specific Information

Information gathered for the preparation of this Environmental Assessment reveals that directly adjacent to the proposed location are tracts of land used for other commercial businesses. The management practices of proper waste disposal and shielding the junk vehicles from public view will minimize any impacts to adjoining landowners and land uses.

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