



August 28, 2008

Newspaper: The Times-Clarion

RE: Release of a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment for an Operating Permit for Two Rock Collecting Sites Located in Wheatland and Golden Valley Counties

Dear Editor:

Please place the following notice in the legal publication section of your newspaper once each week for three consecutive weeks:

Legal Notice

Notice of Application and Release of a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment (CEA) for an Operating Permit (pursuant to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, Section 82-4-353 (1), MCA).

Big Sky Masonry Stone (BSM) located at PO Box 617, Belgrade, MT 59714 filed an application on May 12, 2005 for an Operating Permit for two sites from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. The application was later revised on February 13, 2008 and again on June 10, 2008. At the South Shawmut site BSM would lift rocks from the ground creating a disturbance of about two feet in depth. At the South Barber site BSM would quarry sandstone down to a depth of about 15 feet with use of an excavator. A skid steer loader would be used to lift rocks and place them onto one to two-ton flatbed trucks. The rock would be used for building stone.

The South Shawmut site is composed of about 2,944 acres about 6.5 miles southwest of Shawmut, MT in Sections 3, 4, and 5 in Township 7 North, Range 17 East, in Wheatland County. The South Barber site is composed of about 320 acres about 6 miles south of Barber, MT in Section 25, Township 6 North, Range 18 East, Golden Valley County. At the South Shawmut site up to 38 acres could be disturbed at any point in time, and at the South Barber site up to 20 acres could be disturbed at any point in time.

The proposed operation was reviewed to determine whether it falls under the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) for a General Quarry Operating Permit published by the DEQ in February 2004. DEQ has determined that the environmental analysis set forth in the SPEA could not be applied to the proposed operation because the proposed operation will result in more than five acres being disturbed and unreclaimed at any one time. Thus, DEQ must conduct an environmental analysis specific to the proposed operation.

Copies of the Draft CEA can be reviewed by the public at DEQ offices at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT. The CEA will also be posted on the DEQ web page: www.deq.mt.gov. Please submit comments or questions on the proposal by September 30, 2008. For information on the project and to submit comments on the proposal, contact:

Herb Rolfes
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
(406) 444-3841 or e-mail at hrolfes@mt.gov

To expedite payment, please send your **invoice, original tear sheet, and affidavit of publication** to DEQ at the address above to the attention of Laura Turner. Please indicate that the bill applies to Doc # **EMB 5039-0043**.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Herb Rolfes
Hard Rock Section Supervisor
Hard Rock Operating Permit Section
Environmental Management Bureau
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Fax (406) 444-1499
hrolfes@mt.gov

File pending Big Sky Masonry.37
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