



**June 18, 2007**

Round-Up Record, Times/Clarion, Great Falls Tribune

**RE: Notice of Environmental Assessment for ES Stone's Operating Permit 00163 for New Rock Collecting Sites in Wheatland and Golden Valley Counties**

Dear Editor:

Please place the following notice in the legal publication section of your newspaper one time:

Legal Notice

**Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment Released for an Amendment to E. S. Stone and Structure, Inc.'s Operating Permit 00163 for New Rock Collecting Sites in Wheatland County and Golden Valley County**

ES Stone and Structure, Inc. (E. S. Stone), P. O. Box 28, Ryegate, MT filed an application on May 4, 2007 for an amendment to Operating Permit 00163 from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. E. S. Stone has lease agreements with ranches in Wheatland and Golden Valley Counties, as well as with the State of Montana in Golden Valley County to quarry and hand pick rock for landscaping and masonry purposes. The new sites will be on private land except for the one site on State of Montana land. The sites would be located at Section 34, NE ¼, T8N, R15E in Wheatland County, Section 16, T6N, R19E in Golden Valley County, Sections 20, 21 and 22, T6N, R20E in Golden Valley County, Section 24 and the SE ¼ of the S ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 23, T6N, R20E in Golden Valley County and Section 19, T6N, R21E in Golden Valley County.

One site would be about two miles south of Harlowton and the other sites would be about three to ten miles south and southeast of Ryegate, MT.

The proposed new site has been reviewed for compliance under a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for a General Quarry Operating Permit published by the DEQ in March 2004.

There would be a pallet and splitting yard and up to 1,000 acres disturbed. The proposed 4,020 acre amendment area would be added to the existing 479 permit area for a total of 4,499 acres, with not more than 500 acres disturbed at any one time. The DEQ has determined that the sites do not meet the requirements listed in the SEA because E. S. Stone would have more than five acres disturbed and unreclaimed at any one time. E. S. Stone cannot receive an operating permit amendment without additional environmental analysis.

Copies of the application can be reviewed by the public at DEQ offices at 1520 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Helena, MT. Copies of the Draft EA can be obtained by contacting:

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 email at hrolfes@mt.gov

Please submit comments or questions on the proposed amendment and environmental analysis by July 20, 2007.

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To expedite payment, please send your invoice, affidavit of publication, and original tear sheet to the address below to the attention of Sue Fairchild indicating document #**EMB 5037 142**

Sincerely,

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 email at hrolfes@mt.gov