



**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

September 21, 2010

Newspapers: Livingston Enterprise, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Montana Pioneer

RE: Notice of Availability of a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment for an Amendment to the Jesson Rock-N-Ranch Operating Permit for Landscaping and Masonry Rock Removal in Park County

Dear Editor:

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

Legal Notice

Notice of Availability of Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment for an amendment to the Jesson Rock-N-Ranch operating permit for landscaping and masonry rock removal in Park County.

On August 13, 2010, Jesson Rock-N-Ranch (Jesson) filed an application to amend Operating Permit # 00176 issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Jesson operates a rock picking operation located approximately 8 miles west of Livingston, Montana, on Highway 10W. Jesson uses a front end loader to pick up rock and boulders for landscaping and masonry purposes and is currently permitted to disturb 200 acres. The proposed amendment would add 20 acres to the area permitted for disturbance.

Jesson would disturb the entire 220 acres during the 50-year mine life. Ground disturbance would normally be less than one foot in depth. Jesson is required to submit a bond to ensure reclamation of the land disturbed by its operation.

The proposed operation has been reviewed for compliance under a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) for a General Quarry Operating Permit published by the DEQ in February 2004. DEQ has determined that this operation does not meet the requirements listed in the SPEA since there would be more than five acres disturbed and unreclaimed at any one time. DEQ has, therefore, prepared a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment (Draft CEA) regarding the proposed amendment.

The Draft CEA addresses issues and concerns raised during public and agency scoping. DEQ is proposing to approve the permit amendment application as submitted. This is not a final decision. DEQ's decision may change based on comments received on the Draft CEA, or new information or analysis obtained in preparing the Final CEA.

To obtain copies of the Draft CEA, to obtain information on the project, or to submit comments on the proposed amendment, contact; Herb Rolfes, Operating Permit Section Supervisor, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, (406) 444-3841 or e-mail at hrolfes@mt.gov.

The Draft CEA will also be posted on the DEQ web page: www.deq.mt.gov. Comments on the Draft CEA must be submitted to DEQ by October 8, 2010.

Please send your invoice, original tear sheet, and affidavit of publication to Environmental Management Bureau of DEQ (address above). Please make sure your invoice contains Purchase Order # 50311.42. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Herb Rolfes
Hard Rock Section Supervisor
Hard Rock Operating Permit Section
Environmental Management Bureau
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File: 00176.353
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