



November 17, 2006

Bozeman Chronicle, Three Forks Herald and Townsend Star, Lewis and Clark Journal:

RE: Release of a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment for an Operating Permit for a Quarry and Rock Collecting Site in Broadwater County

Dear Editor:

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

Legal Notice

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

Nitty Gritty Dirt dba Rolling Glen Ranch located at P.O. Box 384 Belgrade, MT 59718 filed an application on July 28, 2006 and revised on September 15, 2006 for an Operating Permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. Nitty Gritty Dirt will use front end loaders, crawler tractors, and rock crushers to quarry rock for road construction, masonry and landscaping. The operation would be on private land in portions of Section 5, Township 2 North, Range 1 East about five miles northwest of Three Forks, MT in Broadwater County.

Nitty Gritty Dirt must obtain an operating permit because the site cannot stay under the five acre disturbed and unreclaimed limit required under the Small Miner's Exclusion Statement.

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 doesn't meet the requirements listed in the SPEA since there would be more than five acres unreclaimed at one time. An operating permit may be issued once the application is complete, an environmental analysis is performed, and the reclamation bond has been posted

to ensure reclamation after completion of the rock collecting activities. If Nitty Gritty Dirt develops additional sites in the future, they would have to apply for an amendment or revision to the operating permit.

The applicant seeks approval for an operating permit of approximately 9.0 acres. The operating plan calls for the reclamation of all surface disturbances.

Copies of the Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment (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 December 30, 2006. 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
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To expedite payment, please send your invoice, original tear sheet, and affidavit of publication to DEQ at the address above to the attention of Sue Fairchild. Please indicate that the bill applies to EMB 5037 072

Sincerely,

Herb Rolfes
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Hard Rock Operating Permit Section
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HR/sf