



August 29, 2006

The Dillon Tribune, Madisonian and Montana Standard Papers

RE: Application for an Operating Permit for Apex Abrasives Inc. Glen Tungsten Mill-Tailings Project in Beaverhead County

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 for an Operating Permit 00013 (pursuant to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, Section 82-4-353(1), MCA).

Apex Abrasives Inc. (Apex) of Missoula, MT filed an application on January 31, 2006 for an Operating Permit for its Glen Tungsten Mill-Tailings Project near Glen, MT from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena and the Bureau of Land Management in Dillon, MT. The old Glen tungsten mill tailings contain garnet sand useful for abrasive products. The tungsten mill tailings are located 2 miles north of Glen, MT and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of Interstate 15 and are 50 years old.

The applicant seeks approval to wash the sands to recover garnet. Over 970,000 tons of tailings exist and the company would mill them at a rate of 90-200 tons/day for 10-15 years. About 70 percent of the tailings would be removed as a result of the reprocessing. The reprocessing of the tailings would result in reclamation of the historic tailings ponds in the area. The permit area would cover approximately 100 acres. All of the operations would be on private and BLM lands in Sections 4 and 5, Township 4 South, Range 9 West, with a well on private land east of the site.

Apex Abrasives must obtain an operating permit as the site is over the five acres disturbed and unreclaimed limit required under the Small Miner's Exclusion Statement.

The proposed operation has been reviewed and the DEQ and BLM have determined that the application is complete enough to issue a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed operating permit.

The Draft EA addresses issues and concerns raised during public involvement and from agency scoping. DEQ and the BLM must decide whether to approve the operating permit as proposed, deny the request for an operating permit, or approve the operating permit with modifications. DEQ and the BLM have decided to approve the permit with modifications as the preliminary preferred alternative. This is not a final decision. This conclusion may change based on comments received from the public on the Draft EA, new information, or new analysis that may be needed in preparing the Final EA.

Copies of the Draft EA and application can be reviewed by the public at DEQ offices at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT and in the Western Montana College Library in Dillon, MT. Please submit comments or questions on the proposal by September 28th. 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

Please send your invoice, tear sheet, and affidavit of publication to DEQ at the above address to the attention of Sue Fairchild. Please indicate that the bill applies to Doc # EMB **5037 028**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Herb Rolfes
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
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