



April 17, 2007

All Wheatland and Flathead county papers also the Missoulian

RE: Revised Application and Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment for a General Quarry Permit for Several Rock Quarries in Flathead and Wheatland 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 for Operating Permit (pursuant to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, Section 82-4-353 (1), MCA).

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announces the availability of a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment (CEA). Montana Rockworks LLC, 1107 Rose Crossing, Kalispell, MT applied to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on July 5, 2005 for an operating permit to quarry rock products in Flathead and Wheatland counties. DEQ reviewed the application and published a legal notice and press release. Based on DEQ review comments, Montana Rockworks submitted a revised application on December 20, 2006.

The proposed Flathead County quarries are located in section 30, Township 26 North, Range 25 West, 18 miles southwest of Marion, MT and section 32, Township 26 North, Range 25 West, 9.6 miles west of Marion, MT. The Wheatland County quarries are located in section 5 and 18, Township 8 North, Range 14 East, 10 miles west of Harlowton, MT; Section 35, Township 8 North, Range 13 East, 1 mile south of Two Dot, MT; Section 3, Township 6 North, Range 13 East, six miles southeast of Two Dot, MT; and Section 1, Township 7 North, Range 13 East, 2 miles south/southeast of Two Dot, MT.

The Proposed Action would allow Montana Rockworks to quarry rock products in a 2,221 acre permit area covering five sites. Two sites are west of Kalispell and the other three sites are west of Harlowton. The total disturbance at the quarry sites would be 860 acres over the 20-year permit

life. Montana Rockworks has proposed to limit total disturbance at any one time to less than 200 acres.

The Draft CEA analyzes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action as well as the potential impacts of two alternatives: 1) No Action (Denial of Proposed Action) and 2) Agency Modifications to the Proposed Action. The Draft CEA addresses issues and concerns raised during agency scoping. The operating permit application is available for review at the DEQ offices in Helena.

DEQ has selected the Agency Modifications to the Proposed Action alternative as the preliminary preferred alternative. This is not a final decision. The preferred alternative could change in response to public comment on the Draft CEA, new information, or new analysis that might be needed in preparing the Final CEA.

The Draft CEA is posted on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.state.mt.us/ea/hardrock.asp>. If you would like a CD or hard copy of the Draft CEA, please contact Herb Rolfes at hrolfes@mt.gov or call (406) 444-3841. Public comments concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the Draft CEA will be accepted until May 17, 2007. Written comments may be sent to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena MT 59620-0901, attn: Herb Rolfes. Copies of the application can be reviewed by the public at DEQ offices at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT.

Since the Final CEA might only contain public comments and responses, and a list of changes to the Draft CEA, please keep the Draft CEA for future reference.

Please send your invoice, affidavit of publication, and original tear sheet to DEQ at the above address to the attention of Sue Fairchild. Please indicate that the bill applies to # EMB 5037 120. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Herb Rolfes
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Environmental Management Bureau