



December 18 2006

Times – Clarion

**RE: Release of a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment for an Operating Permit for Two Rock Collecting Sites Located in Wheatland and Golden Valley Counties**

Dear Editor:

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

Legal Notice

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

Northfork Stoneworks located at 8064 Churchill Road, Manhattan, MT. 59741 filed an application on July 13, 2006, revised on October 23, 2006, for an Operating Permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. Northfork Stoneworks will use an excavator and skidders to expose and remove sandstone rock down to a depth of 20 feet for landscaping and masonry purposes. The operation would be on private land in portions of Sections 9 and 10, Township 6 North, Range 14 East, Wheatland County, about 15 miles southwest of Harlowton and in portions of Section 11, Township 5 North, Range 18 East in Golden Valley County, about 17 miles southwest of Ryegate.

Northfork Stoneworks must obtain an operating permit because the sites 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 any 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 Northfork Stoneworks develop additional lease agreements on other 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 that contains two sites. The operating plan calls for reclamation of all surface disturbances. The applicant seeks approval for an operating permit of approximately 25 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. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., in Helena, MT. The CEA will also be posted on the DEQ web page: [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov). Please submit comments or questions on the proposal by January 18, 2007. 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 2000901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901  
(406) 444-3841 or e-mail at [hrolfes@mt.gov](mailto:hrolfes@mt.gov)

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 Doc # EMB 5037 083.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,

Herb Rolfes  
Hard Rock Section Supervisor  
Hard Rock Operating Permit Section  
Environmental Management Bureau  
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