



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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**To: Madisonian, Montana Standard and the Bozeman Daily Chronicle**

**RE: Amendment Application for Ruby Valley Garnet**

October 24, 2006

Dear Editor:

Please publish the following legal notice in the next issue of your newspaper:

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**Revised Application Received and Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment Released for an Amendment to Operating Permit 00157 for Processing Garnet Sands in Madison County**

Ruby Valley Garnet (RVG) of Alder, MT applied to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on December 5, 2005 for an amendment to their existing Operating Permit 00157. RVG has operated the Red Wash site under a Small Miner's Exclusion Statement (SMES) since 2004 and has disturbed six acres to date. RVG can no longer keep the area disturbed at any one time to less than five acres and must apply for an amendment to their permit. The Red Wash site is located in portions of Sections 22, 23, 24 and 25, Township 6 South, Range 3 West, about three miles southeast of Alder, MT. The DEQ has prepared a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment (CEA) to evaluate the potential impacts from this operation. The DEQ must decide whether to approve the permit as proposed, deny the request for an operating permit, or approve the operating permit with modifications.

Currently, RVG has a permit area of 505.6 acres with permitted disturbance of up to 362 acres. They have disturbed 36.3 acres. The Red Wash site consists of 158 acres of which 45 acres could be disturbed. Disturbance at the Red Wash site would consist of using an excavator, front end loaders, and crawler tractors. A concentrate of garnet sand would be produced. A mobile dry process utilizing dry screening and magnetically concentrating the garnet bearing ore at the

Red Wash site would be combined with a wet process using jig and spiral concentrators at the Alder processing site. Ground disturbance at the Red Wash site would normally be 12 to 15 feet in depth and 100 feet in width with a disturbance at any one time limited to approximately 7 to 12 acres. Final concentrating, bagging, and loading of garnet sand would occur at the processing facility at Alder.

The Draft CEA addresses issues and concerns raised during public involvement and from agency scoping. The agencies 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 this Draft CEA, new information, or new analysis that may be needed in preparing the Final CEA.

Copies of the Draft CEA can be obtained by writing DEQ, Environmental Management Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, c/o Herb Rolfes, or calling (406)444-3841; or sending email addressed to [hrolfes@mt.gov](mailto:hrolfes@mt.gov). The Draft CEA will also be posted on the DEQ web page: [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov). Public comments concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the Draft CEA will be accepted for 30 days, until November 24, 2006.

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The Draft CEA will also be posted on the DEQ web page: <http://www.deq.mt.gov/>.

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To expedite payment, please send your invoice, original tear sheet, and affidavit of publication to DEQ at the address below to the attention of Sue Fairchild. Please indicate that the bill applies to Doc # EMB 5037 058 Thank you.

Mail to:

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