

AIR QUALITY PERMIT

Issued To: Rock Solid Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 1262
Havre, MT 59501

Permit #3253-00
Complete Application Submitted: 05/12/03
Preliminary Determination Issued: 06/16/03
Department Decision Issued: 07/02/03
Permit Final: 07/18/03
AFS #777-3253

An air quality permit, with conditions, is hereby granted to Rock Solid Enterprises, Inc. (Rock), pursuant to Sections 75-2-204 and 211, Montana Code Annotated (MCA), as amended, and the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.8.740, *et seq.*, as amended, for the following:

Section I: Permitted Facilities

A. Permitted Equipment

Rock operates a portable wash plant operation powered by a diesel generator. A complete list of the permitted equipment can be found in Section I.A of permit analysis.

B. Plant Location

Rock operates a portable wash plant operation, powered by a diesel generator, which will initially locate in the East ½ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 1, Township 32 North, Range 15 East, in Hill County, Montana. However, Permit #3253-00 applies while operating at any location in Montana, except within those areas having a Department of Environmental Quality (Department) approved permitting program. *A Missoula County air quality permit will be required for locations within Missoula County, Montana. An addendum to this air quality permit will be required if Rock intends to locate in or within 10 kilometers (km) of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.*

Section II: Conditions and Limitations

A. Emission Limitations

1. Rock shall not cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere, from any sources, any visible emissions that exhibit an opacity of 20% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes (ARM 17.8.304 and ARM 17.8.752).
2. Water and spray bars shall be available on site and used, as necessary, to maintain compliance with the opacity limitation in Section II.A.1 (ARM 17.8.752).
3. Rock shall not cause or authorize the use of any street, road, or parking lot without taking reasonable precautions to control emissions of airborne particulate matter (ARM 17.8.308 and ARM 17.8.752).
4. Rock shall treat all unpaved portions of the haul roads, access roads, parking lots, or the general plant area with water and/or chemical dust suppressant as necessary to maintain compliance with the reasonable precautions limitation in Section II.A.3 (ARM 17.8.749 and ARM 17.8.752).
5. Total screen production from the wash plant screen shall be limited to 4,380,000 tons during any rolling 12-month time period (ARM 17.8.749).

6. If the permitted equipment is used in conjunction with any other equipment owned or operated by Rock, at the same site, production shall be limited to correspond with an emission level that does not exceed 250 tons during any rolling 12-month time period. Any calculations used to establish production levels shall be approved by the Department (ARM 17.8.749).

B. Testing Requirements

1. All compliance source tests shall conform to the requirements of the Montana Source Test Protocol and Procedures Manual (ARM 17.8.106).
2. The Department may require further testing (ARM 17.8.105).

C. Operational Reporting Requirements

1. If this portable wash plant and associated generator are moved to another location, an Intent to Transfer Form must be sent to the Department. In addition, a Public Notice Form for Change of Location must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area to which the transfer is to be made, at least 15 days prior to the move. The Intent to Transfer Form and the proof of publication (affidavit) of the Public Notice Form for Change of Location must be submitted to the Department prior to the move. These forms are available from the Department (ARM 17.8.765).
2. Rock shall maintain on-site records showing daily hours of operation and daily production rates for the last 12 months. All records compiled in accordance with this permit shall be maintained by Rock as a permanent business record for at least 5 years following the date of the measurement, must be available at the plant site for inspection by the Department, and must be submitted to the Department upon request (ARM 17.8.749).
3. Rock shall supply the Department with annual production information for all emission points, as required by the Department in the annual emission inventory request. The request will include, but is not limited to, all sources of emissions identified in the most recent emission inventory report and sources identified in Section I.A of the permit analysis.

Production information shall be gathered on a calendar-year basis and submitted to the Department by the date required in the emission inventory request. Information shall be in units, as required by the Department. This information may be used for calculating operating fees, based on actual emissions from the facility, and/or to verify compliance with permit limitations (ARM 17.8.505).

4. Rock shall notify the Department of any construction or improvement project conducted, pursuant to ARM 17.8.745(1) that would include a change in control equipment, stack height, stack diameter, stack flow, stack gas temperature, source location, or fuel specifications, or would result in an increase in source capacity above its permitted operation or the addition of a new emission unit.

The notice must be submitted to the Department, in writing, 10 days prior to start-up or use of the proposed de minimis change, or as soon as reasonably practicable in the event of an unanticipated circumstance causing the de minimis change, and must include the information requested in ARM 17.8.745 (1)(d)

(ARM 17.8.745).

5. Rock shall document, by month, the total wash plant screen production for the facility. By the 25th day of each month, Rock shall total the screen production during the previous 12 months to verify compliance with the limitation in Section II.A.5. A written report of the compliance verification shall be submitted along with the annual emission inventory (ARM 17.8.749).

Section III: General Conditions

- A. Inspection – Rock shall allow the Department’s representatives access to the source at all reasonable times for the purpose of making inspections or surveys, collecting samples, obtaining data, auditing any monitoring equipment (CEMS, CERMS) or observing any monitoring or testing, and otherwise conducting all necessary functions related to this permit.
- B. Waiver - The permit and all the terms, conditions, and matters stated herein shall be deemed accepted if Rock fails to appeal as indicated below.
- C. Compliance with Statutes and Regulations - Nothing in this permit shall be construed as relieving Rock of the responsibility for complying with any applicable federal or Montana statute, rule, or standard, except as specifically provided in ARM 17.8.740, *et seq.* (ARM 17.8.756).
- D. Enforcement - Violations of limitations, conditions, and requirements contained herein may constitute grounds for permit revocation, penalties, or other enforcement as specified in Section 75-2-401, *et seq.*, MCA.
- E. Appeals - Any person or persons jointly or severally adversely affected by the Department's decision may request, within 15 days after the Department renders its decision, upon affidavit setting forth the grounds therefore, a hearing before the Board of Environmental Review (Board). A hearing shall be held under the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedures Act. The filing of a request for a hearing postpones the effective date of the Department decision until the conclusion of the hearing and issuance of a final decision by the Board. The Department's decision on the application is not final unless 15 days have elapsed and there is no request for a hearing under this section.
- F. Permit Inspection - As required by ARM 17.8.755, Inspection of Permit, a copy of the air quality permit shall be made available for inspection by Department personnel at the location of the permitted source.
- G. Construction Commencement - Construction must begin within 3 years of permit issuance and proceed with due diligence until the project is complete or the permit shall be revoked (ARM 17.8.762).
- H. Permit Fees - Pursuant to Section 75-2-220, MCA, as amended by the 1991 Legislature, failure to pay the annual operation fee by Rock may be grounds for revocation of this permit, as required by that section and rules adopted thereunder by the Board.
- I. The Department may modify the conditions of this permit based on local conditions of any future site. These factors may include, but are not limited to, local terrain, meteorological conditions, proximity to residences, etc.
- J. Rock shall comply with the conditions contained in this permit while operating at any

location in Montana, except within those areas having a Department approved permitting program.

PERMIT ANALYSIS
Rock Solid Enterprises, Inc.
Permit Number 3253-00

I. Introduction/Process Description

A. Permitted Equipment

Rock Solid Enterprises, Inc. (Rock) owns and operates a portable wash plant. Equipment used at the facility includes a portable 3-deck screen (maximum capacity up to 500 TPH), a Diesel Generator (up to 450 Kilowatts (kW)), and associated equipment. The original location for the facility will be in the East ½, of the Southeast ¼, of Section 1, Township 32 North, Range 15 East, in Hill County, Montana. Permit #3253-00 will apply to the source while operating in any location in Montana, except within those areas having a Department of Environmental Quality (Department) approved permitting program. *A Missoula County air quality permit will be required for locations within Missoula County, Montana.* An addendum to this air quality permit will be required if Rock intends to locate in or within 10 kilometers (km) of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.

B. Source Description

Rock proposes to use this portable wash plant and diesel generator to sort sand and gravel materials for use in various construction operations. For a typical operational setup, unprocessed materials are loaded into the wash plant and transferred by conveyor to a screen. Materials are separated and then sent to stockpile.

II. Applicable Rules and Regulations

The following are partial explanations of some applicable rules and regulations that apply to the facility. The complete rules are stated in the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) and are available, upon request, from the Department. Upon request, the Department will provide references for locations of complete copies of all applicable rules and regulations or copies where appropriate.

A. ARM 17.8, Subchapter 1 - General Provisions, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.101 Definitions. This rule is a list of applicable definitions used in this chapter, unless indicated otherwise in a specific subchapter.
2. ARM 17.8.105 Testing Requirements. Any person or persons responsible for the emission of any air contaminant into the outdoor atmosphere shall, upon written request of the Department, provide the facilities and necessary equipment (including instruments and sensing devices) and shall conduct tests, emission or ambient, for such periods of time as may be necessary, using methods approved by the Department.
3. ARM 17.8.106 Source Testing Protocol. The requirements of this rule apply to any emission source testing conducted by the Department, any source, or other entity as required by any rule in this chapter, or any permit or order issued pursuant to this chapter, or the provisions of the Clean Air Act of Montana, 75-2-101, *et seq.*, Montana Code Annotated (MCA).

Rock shall comply with all requirements contained in the Montana Source Test Protocol and Procedures Manual, including, but not limited to, using the proper test methods and supplying the required reports. A copy of the Montana Source Test Protocol and Procedures Manual is available from the Department upon request.

4. ARM 17.8.110 Malfunctions. (2) The Department must be notified promptly by telephone whenever a malfunction occurs that can be expected to create emissions in excess of any applicable emission limitation or to continue for a period greater than 4 hours.
5. ARM 17.8.111 Circumvention. (1) No person shall cause or permit the installation or use of any device or any means which, without resulting in reduction in the total amount of air contaminant emitted, conceals or dilutes an emission of air contaminant that would otherwise violate an air pollution control regulation. (2) No equipment that may produce emissions shall be operated or maintained in such a manner that a public nuisance is created.

B. ARM 17.8, Subchapter 2 - Ambient Air Quality, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.210 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Sulfur Dioxide
2. ARM 17.8.211 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide
3. ARM 17.8.212 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Carbon Monoxide
4. ARM 17.8.220 Ambient Air Quality Standard for Settled Particulate Matter
5. ARM 17.8.223 Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM₁₀

Rock must comply with the applicable ambient air quality standards.

C. ARM 17.8, Subchapter 3 - Emission Standards, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.304 Visible Air Contaminants. This rule requires that no person may cause or authorize emissions to be discharged into the outdoor atmosphere from any source installed after November 23, 1968, that exhibit an opacity of 20% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes.
2. ARM 17.8.308 Particulate Matter, Airborne. (1) This rule requires an opacity limitation of 20% for all fugitive emission sources and that reasonable precautions be taken to control emissions of airborne particulate matter. (2) Under this rule, Rock shall not cause or authorize the use of any street, road, or parking lot without taking reasonable precautions to control emissions of airborne particulate matter.
3. ARM 17.8.309 Particulate Matter, Fuel Burning Equipment. This rule requires that no person shall cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere particulate matter caused by the combustion of fuel in excess of the amount determined by this rule.
4. ARM 17.8.310 Particulate Matter, Industrial Processes. This rule requires that no person shall cause or allow to be discharged into the atmosphere particulate matter in excess of the amount set forth in this rule.
5. ARM 17.8.322 Sulfur Oxide Emissions--Sulfur in Fuel. This rule requires that no person shall burn liquid, solid, or gaseous fuel in excess of the amount set forth in this rule.
6. ARM 17.8.324 Hydrocarbon Emissions--Petroleum Products. (3) No person shall load or permit the loading of gasoline into any stationary tank with a capacity of 250 gallons or more from any tank truck or trailer, except through a permanent submerged fill pipe, unless such tank truck or trailer is equipped with a vapor loss control device as described in (1) of this rule.

7. ARM 17.8.340 Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources. This rule incorporates, by reference, 40 CFR 60, Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources (NSPS). The owner or operator of any stationary source or modification, as defined and applied in 40 CFR Part 60, NSPS, shall comply with the standards and provisions of 40 CFR Part 60.

In order for a crushing/screening plant to be subject to NSPS requirements, two specific criteria must be met. First, the crushing/screening plant must meet the definition of an affected facility and, second, the equipment in question must have been constructed, reconstructed, or modified after August 31, 1983. Based on the information submitted by Rock at the time of issuance of Permit #3253-00, the wash plant and associated screen does not meet the definition of an affected facility and, therefore, is not subject to NSPS requirements. (40 CFR Part 60, Subpart A General Provisions, and Subpart OOO, Non-Metallic Mineral Processing Plants).

- D. ARM 17.8, Subchapter 5 - Air Quality Permit Application, Operation, and Open Burning Fees, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.504 Air Quality Permit Application Fees. This rule requires that Rock submit an air quality permit application fee concurrent with the submittal of an air quality permit application. A permit application is incomplete until the proper application fee is paid to the Department. Rock submitted the appropriate permit application fee as required for the current permit action.
2. ARM 17.8.505 Air Quality Operation Fees. An annual air quality operation fee must, as a condition of continued operation, be submitted to the Department by each source of air contaminants holding an air quality permit, excluding an open burning permit, issued by the Department. This operation fee is based on the actual or estimated actual amount of air pollutants emitted during the previous calendar year.

An air quality operation fee is separate and distinct from an air quality permit application fee. The annual assessment and collection of the air quality operation fee, described above, shall take place on a calendar-year basis. The Department may insert into any final permit issued after the effective date of these rules, such conditions as may be necessary to require the payment of an air quality operation fee on a calendar-year basis, including provisions that pro-rate the required fee amount.

- E. ARM 17.8, Subchapter 7 - Permit, Construction and Operation of Air Contaminant Sources, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.740 Definitions. This rule is a list of applicable definitions used in this chapter, unless indicated otherwise in a specific subchapter.
2. ARM 17.8.743 Montana Air Quality Permits--When Required. This rule requires a facility to obtain an air quality permit or permit alteration if they construct, modify or use any asphalt plant, crusher, or screen that has the potential to emit greater than 15 tons per year of any pollutant. Rock has the potential to emit more than 15 tons per year of total particulate matter (PM), particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and carbon monoxide (CO); therefore, an air quality permit is required.

3. ARM 17.8.744 Montana Air Quality Permits--General Exclusions. This rule identifies the activities that are not subject to the Montana Air Quality Permit Program.
4. ARM 17.8.745 Montana Air Quality Permits—Exclusion for De Minimis Changes. This rule identifies the de minimis changes at permitted facilities that are not subject to the Montana Air Quality Permit Program.
5. ARM 17.8.748 New or Modified Emitting Units--Permit Application Requirements. This rule requires that a permit application be submitted prior to installation, modification, or use of a source. Rock submitted the required permit application for the current permit action. (7) This rule requires that the applicant notify the public by means of legal publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the application for a permit. Rock submitted an affidavit of publication of public notice for the May 1, 2003, issue of the *The Havre Daily News*, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Havre in Hill County, as proof of compliance with the public notice requirements
6. ARM 17.8.749 Conditions for Issuance or Denial of Permit. This rule requires that the permits issued by the Department must authorize the construction and operation of the facility or emitting unit subject to the conditions in the permit and the requirements of this subchapter. This rule also requires that the permit must contain any conditions necessary to assure compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), the Clean Air Act of Montana, and rules adopted under those acts.
7. ARM 17.8.752 Emission Control Requirements. This rule requires a source to install the maximum air pollution control capability that is technically practicable and economically feasible, except that BACT shall be utilized. The required BACT analysis is included in Section IV of this permit analysis.
8. ARM 17.8.755 Inspection of Permit. This rule requires that air quality permits shall be made available for inspection by the Department at the location of the source.
9. ARM 17.8.756 Compliance with Other Requirements. This rule states that nothing in the permit shall be construed as relieving Rock of the responsibility for complying with any applicable federal or Montana statute, rule, or standard, except as specifically provided in ARM 17.8.740, *et seq.*
10. ARM 17.8.759 Review of Permit Applications. This rule describes the Department's responsibilities for processing permit applications and making permit decisions on those permit applications that do not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.
11. ARM 17.8.762 Duration of Permit. An air quality permit shall be valid until revoked or modified, as provided in this subchapter, except that a permit issued prior to construction of a new or altered source may contain a condition providing that the permit will expire unless construction is commenced within the time specified in the permit, which in no event may be less than 1 year after the permit is issued.

12. ARM 17.8.763 Revocation of Permit. An air quality permit may be revoked upon written request of Rock, or for violations of any requirement of the Clean Air Act of Montana, rules adopted under the Clean Air Act of Montana, the FCAA, rules adopted under the FCAA, or any applicable requirement contained in the Montana State Implementation Plan (SIP).
13. ARM 17.8.764 Administrative Amendment to Permit. An air quality permit may be amended for changes in any applicable rules and standards adopted by the Board of Environmental Review (Board) or changed conditions of operation at a source or stack that do not result in an increase of emissions as a result of those changed conditions. The owner or operator of a facility may not increase the facility's emissions beyond those found in its permit limits, unless the increase meets the criteria in ARM 17.8.745 for a de minimis change not requiring a permit, or unless the owner or operator applies for and receives another permit in accordance with ARM 17.8.748, ARM 17.8.749, ARM 17.8.752, ARM 17.8.755, and ARM 17.8.756, and with all applicable requirements in ARM Title 17, Chapter 8, subchapters 8, 9, 10.
14. ARM 17.8.765 Transfer of Permit. (1) This rule states that an air quality permit may be transferred from one location to another if the Department receives a complete notice of Intent to Transfer, including a Transfer of Location notice and an affidavit of publication from a newspaper of general circulation in the area to be affected. (2) This rule states that an air quality permit may be transferred from one person to another if written notice of Intent to Transfer, including the names of the transferor and the transferee, is sent to the Department.

F. ARM 17.8, Subchapter 8 - Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.801 Definitions. This rule is a list of applicable definitions used in this subchapter.
2. ARM 17.8.818 Review of Major Stationary Sources and Major Modifications-- Source Applicability and Exemptions. The requirements contained in ARM 17.8.819 through ARM 17.8.827 shall apply to any major stationary source and any major modification with respect to each pollutant subject to regulation under the FCAA that it would emit, except as this subchapter would otherwise allow.

This facility is not a major stationary source since it is not a listed source and the facility's potential to emit (PTE) is less than 250 tons per year (excluding fugitive emissions) of any air pollutant.

G. ARM 17.8, Subchapter 12 - Operating Permit Program Applicability, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.1201 Definitions. (23) Major Source under Section 7412 of the FCAA is defined as any stationary source having:
 - a. PTE > 100 tons/year of any pollutant;
 - b. PTE > 10 tons/year of any one Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP), PTE > 25 tons/year of a combination of all HAPs, or a lesser quantity as the

Department may establish by rule; or

c. PTE > 70 tons/year of PM₁₀ in a serious PM₁₀ nonattainment area.

2. ARM 17.8.1204 Air Quality Operating Permit Program Applicability. (1) Title V of the FCAA Amendments of 1990 requires that all sources, as defined in ARM 17.8.1204(1), obtain a Title V Operating Permit. In reviewing and issuing Air Quality Permit #3253-00 for the Rock facility, the following conclusions were made:

- a. The facility's PTE is less than 100 tons/year for any pollutant.
- b. The facility's PTE is less than 10 tons/year of any one HAP and less than 25 tons/year of all HAPs.
- c. This source is not located in a serious PM₁₀ nonattainment area.
- d. This facility is not subject to any current NESHAP standards.
- e. This facility is not subject to current NSPS standards.
- f. This source is not a Title IV affected source nor a solid waste combustion unit.
- g. This source is not an EPA designated Title V source.

Based on these facts, the Department determined that Rock will be a minor source of emissions as defined under Title V.

III. Emission Inventory

Source	Tons/Year					
	PM	PM ₁₀	NO _x	VOC	CO	SO _x
Wash Plant/with Screen (up to 500 TPH)	20.70	9.86				
Material Transfer	2.86	4.60				
Pile Forming	16.56	7.88				
Bulk Loading	5.52	2.63				
Diesel Generator (up to 450 KW)	1.85	1.85	63.43	1.69	14.54	5.34
Haul Roads	2.74	1.23				
Total	50.23	28.05	63.43	1.69	14.54	5.34

- A complete emission inventory for Permit #3253-00 is on file with the Department.

IV. BACT Determination

A BACT determination is required for any new or altered source. Rock shall install on the new or modified source the maximum air pollution control capability that is technically practicable and economically feasible, except that BACT shall be used.

Rock shall not cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere from any equipment any visible emissions that exhibit an opacity of 20% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes. Rock must also take reasonable precautions to limit the fugitive emissions of airborne particulate matter from haul roads, access roads, parking areas, and the general plant property. Rock is required to use water spray bars and water and/or chemical dust suppressant, as necessary, to

maintain compliance with the opacity and reasonable precaution limitations. The Department determined that using water spray bars and water and/or chemical dust suppressant to maintain compliance with the opacity requirements and reasonable precaution limitations constitutes BACT for these sources.

Due to the relatively small amount of PM, PM₁₀, NO_x, VOC, CO, and SO_x, emissions produced by the diesel generator, add-on controls would be cost prohibitive. Thus, the Department determined that no additional control would constitute BACT for the generator. The control options selected have controls and control costs similar to other recently permitted similar sources and are capable of achieving the established emissions limits.

V. Existing Air Quality

Permit #3253-00 is issued for the operation of a portable wash plant and diesel generator to be initially located in the East ½ of the Southeast ¼ Section 1, Township 32 North, Range 15 East, in Hill County, Montana. This proposed site is designated as an attainment/unclassified area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Also, this facility is a portable source that would operate on an intermittent and temporary basis and any effects to air quality will be minor and short-lived.

VI. Ambient Air Quality Impact Analysis

Permit #3253-00 will cover the operation while operating at any location within Montana, excluding those counties that have a Department approved permitting program or those locations in or within 10 km of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas. In the view of the Department, the amount of controlled emissions generated by this facility will not exceed any set ambient standard. In addition, this source is portable and any air quality impacts will be minor and short-lived.

VII. Taking or Damaging Implication Analysis

As required by 2-10-101 through 105, Montana Code Annotated (MCA), the Department conducted a private property taking and damaging assessment and determined there are no taking or damaging implications.

VIII. Environmental Assessment

An environmental assessment, required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act, was completed for this project. A copy is attached.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Permitting and Compliance Division
Air and Waste Management Bureau
1520 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, Montana 59620-0901
(406) 444-3490

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued For: Rock Solid Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 1262
Havre, MT 59501

Permit Number: #3253-00

Preliminary Determination Issued: June 16, 2003

Department Decision Issued: July 2, 2003

Permit Final: July 18, 2003

1. *Legal Description of Site:* Rock submitted an application to operate a portable wash plant and diesel generator in the East ½ of the Southeast ¼ Section 1, Township 32 North, Range 15 East, in Hill County, Montana. Permit #3253-00 would apply while operating at any location in Montana, except within those areas having a Department approved permitting program. *A Missoula County air quality permit would be required for locations within Missoula County, Montana. An addendum to this air quality permit will be required if Rock intends to locate in or within 10 kilometers (km) of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.*
2. *Description of Project:* The permit application proposes the construction and operation of a portable wash plant and diesel generator plant that would consist of a portable 3-deck screen (maximum capacity 500 TPH), a diesel generator (up to 450 Kilowatts (kW)), and associated equipment. For a typical operational setup, unprocessed materials are loaded into the wash plant and transferred by conveyor to a screen. Materials are separated and then sent to stockpile.
3. *Objectives of Project:* The objective of the project would be to increase business and revenue for the company by the sale and use of the aggregate. The issuance of Permit #3253-00 would allow Rock to operate the permitted wash plant and diesel generator at various locations throughout Montana, including the proposed initial site location.
4. *Additional Project Site Information:* In many cases, this crushing/screening operation may move to a general site location or open cut pit, which has been previously permitted through Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau (IEMB). If this were the case, a more extensive EA would have been conducted and would be found in the Mined Land Reclamation Permit for that specific site.
5. *Alternatives Considered:* In addition to the proposed action, the Department also considered the "no-action" alternative. The "no-action" alternative would deny issuance of the air quality preconstruction permit to the proposed facility. However, the Department does not consider the "no-action" alternative to be appropriate because Rock demonstrated compliance with all applicable rules and regulations as required for permit issuance. Therefore, the "no-action" alternative was eliminated from further consideration.
6. *A Listing of Mitigation, Stipulations, and Other Controls:* A listing of the enforceable permit conditions and a permit analysis, including a BACT analysis, would be contained in Permit #3253-00.

7. *Regulatory Effects on Private Property Rights:* The Department considered alternatives to the conditions imposed in this permit as part of the permit development. The Department determined the permit conditions would be reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with applicable requirements and demonstrate compliance with those requirements and would not unduly restrict private property rights.

8. *The following table summarizes the potential physical and biological effects of the proposed project on the human environment. The “no action alternative” was discussed previously.*

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Included
A.	Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats			X			yes
B.	Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution			X			yes
C.	Geology and Soil Quality, Stability, and Moisture			X			yes
D.	Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality			X			yes
E.	Aesthetics			X			yes
F.	Air Quality			X			yes
G.	Unique Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resource			X			yes
H.	Demands on Environmental Resource of Water, Air, and Energy			X			yes
I.	Historical and Archaeological Sites			X			yes
J.	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			yes

Summary of Comments on Potential Physical and Biological Effects: The following comments have been prepared by the Department.

A. Terrestrial and Aquatic Life and Habitats

Terrestrials would use the same area as the portable wash plant and diesel generator operations. The operations would be small, with intermittent and seasonal operations; thus, only minor effects on terrestrial life would be expected as a result of equipment operations or from pollutant deposition.

Impacts on aquatic life could result from water runoff and pollutant deposition, but such impacts would be minor as the facility is a small source, with seasonal and intermittent operations. Since good dispersion of air pollutants would occur in the proposed areas of operation and only a minor amount of air emissions would be generated, only minor amounts of deposition would occur. Also, there is an ephemeral stream approximately 100 meters from the permit area. The stream has no discharge into any other surface water body, but seeps into the ground. Additionally, the proposed operational site is approximately ¾ mile away from the Milk River, so no effects to the river from equipment operations or pollutant deposition are expected to occur. Also, because of the small amount of air emissions generated, pollutant deposition to local waterways would also be small. Therefore, any impacts upon surrounding surface water and the aquatic life contained therein would be minor. Therefore, no fisheries resources would be affected by the project.

B. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution

Water would be used for dust suppression on the surrounding roadways and areas of operation and as an inherent part of wash plant operations. However, at most, only minor surface and groundwater quality impacts would be expected as a result of using water for the wash plant

operations and dust suppression on the surrounding site because only small amounts of water would be required. Any accidental spills or equipment leaks would be required to be handled according to the appropriate environmental regulations.

Because mining operations would take place in depressed terrain, storm water runoff and air emissions would be more effectively contained within the proposed permit area. As described in Section 8.F of this EA, the maximum impacts from the air emissions from this facility would be relatively minor. As a result of low air impacts from this facility, the corresponding deposition of the air pollutants in the area would also be minor. Additionally, the operations would be intermittent and seasonal in nature. Thus, the small and intermittent amounts of deposition from the wash plant and generator operations would only have minor impacts upon water quality.

C. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability, and Moisture

The soils in the proposed site locations would be impacted by the wash plant and generator operations due to the construction and use of the equipment. Considering the facility's relatively small size, portable and temporary nature, historical usage of the site, and good pollution dispersion for the area of operations, any affects upon geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture at the proposed operational site would be minor.

D. Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality

Because the facility would be operating in an open-cut pit and would be relatively small in size (by industrial standards) and temporary in nature, impacts upon the vegetation from the wash plant and generator air pollutant emissions would be minor.

As described in Section 8.F of this EA, the impacts from the air emissions from this facility would be minor. As a result, the corresponding deposition of the air pollutants on the surrounding vegetation would also be minor. Also, because the water usage is minimal, as described in Section 8.B, and the associated soil disturbance is minimal, as described in Section 8.C, corresponding vegetative impacts would also be minimal.

E. Aesthetics

The wash plant and generator operations may be visible (depending upon the location of the viewer) and would create additional noise in the area. However, Permit #3253-00 would include conditions to control emissions, including visible emissions, from the plant. Also, because the wash plant and generator operations are small and portable, would have seasonal and intermittent operations, would locate within an open-cut pit and on private property, any visual and noise impacts would be minor.

F. Air Quality

The air quality impacts from the portable wash plant and generator operations would be minor because Permit #3253-00 would include conditions limiting the opacity from the plant, as well as requiring water spray bars and other means to control air pollution. Additionally, the wash plant would not generate significant emissions, would have temporary and intermittent use, would be considered a minor source of emissions by industrial standards, and would be located in an area where good air pollutant dispersion would occur. Further, Permit #3253-00 would limit total emissions from Rock's wash plant and any additional equipment operated at the same site to 250 tons/year or less, excluding fugitive emissions.

G. Unique Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources

The Department, in an effort to assess any potential impacts to any unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources in the initial proposed area of operation, contacted the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP). Search results concluded there is no such environmental resource within the defined area. The defined area, in this case, is defined by the township and range of the proposed site, with an additional one-mile buffer. No effects would be expected, but any such effects would be minor and short-lived as the facility is a small industrial source with seasonal and intermittent operations.

H. Demands on Environmental Resources of Water, Air, and Energy

Due to the size of the facility, the portable wash plant and generator operations would only require small quantities of water, air, and energy for proper operation. Small quantities of water would be used for the wash plant operations and for dust suppression to control emissions being generated at the site. Energy requirements would also be small because the wash plant is small and the diesel generator would power the facility and would have seasonal and intermittent operations. Additionally, air resources and subsequent impacts would also be minor because the source is small by industrial standards and would have intermittent and seasonal operations and a minor amount of emissions. Also, operating in a depressed open-cut pit would reduce air pollutant impacts upon the surrounding environment. Therefore, any impacts upon water, air, and energy resources would be minor.

I. Historical and Archaeological Sites

The Department contacted the Montana Historical Society - State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) in an effort to identify any historical and/or archaeological sites that may be present in the proposed area of construction/operation. Search results have concluded that there are no previously recorded historical or archaeological resources of concern within the area. According to correspondence from the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, given the previous disturbance in the area, there would be a low likelihood of adverse disturbance to any known archaeological or historic site. Therefore, the Department determined that it is unlikely that the wash plant operations would have an effect on any historic or archaeological site, but any such incidental disturbances would be expected to be minor.

J. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The portable wash plant and generator operations would cause minor cumulative and secondary impacts to the physical and biological aspects of the human environment because the facility would generate emissions of particulate matter (PM), particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOC), carbon monoxide (CO), and oxides of sulfur (SO_x). Noise would also be generated from the site. Emissions and noise would cause minimal disturbance, because the site is an open-cut pit designated and used for such purposes. Additionally, this facility, in combination with the other emissions from the site would not be allowed to exceed 250 tons per year of non-fugitive emissions. Overall, any impacts to the physical and biological aspects of the human environment would be minor.

9. The following table summarizes the potential economic and social effects of the proposed project on the human environment. The “no action alternative” was discussed previously.

		Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments Included
A.	Social Structures and Mores				X		yes
B.	Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity				X		yes
C.	Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue			X			yes
D.	Agricultural or Industrial Production			X			yes
E.	Human Health			X			yes
F.	Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities			X			yes
G.	Quantity and Distribution of Employment			X			yes
H.	Distribution of Population				X		yes
I.	Demands for Government Services			X			yes
J.	Industrial and Commercial Activity			X			yes
K.	Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals			X			yes
L.	Cumulative and Secondary Impacts			X			yes

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON POTENTIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS: The Department has prepared the following comments.

A. Social Structures and Mores

The portable wash plant and generator operations would cause no disruption to the social structures and mores in the area because the source is relatively small in size (by industrial standards) and temporary in nature. Additionally, the equipment would be located in an open-cut pit designated and used for such purposes, in an area removed from the general population, and would be required to operate under the conditions in Permit #3253-00. Thus, no native or traditional communities would be affected by the proposed project operations and no impacts upon social structures or mores to any surrounding communities would result.

B. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area would not be impacted by the proposed wash plant and generator operations because the site and surrounding area have already been designated and used for such purposes and are separated from the general population. Additionally, the facility would be considered a portable/temporary source with seasonal and intermittent operations. Therefore, the predominant use of the surrounding area would not change as a result of this project.

C. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

The portable wash plant and generator operations would have little, if any, effect on the local and state tax base and tax revenue because the facility would be relatively small by industrial standards (minor source) and have seasonal and intermittent operations. The facility operations would require the use of 4 new employees. Thus, only minor, if any, impacts to the local and state tax base and revenue could be expected from the employees and facility production. Furthermore, the impacts to local tax bases and revenue is expected to be minor because the source would be portable and the money generated for local taxes would be widespread.

D. Agricultural or Industrial Production

The portable wash plant and generator operations would have only a minor impact on local industrial production since the facility is small by industrial standards (minor source) and would locate in a designated industrial area. There would be only minor effects on agricultural land because the facility would be operating in an open-cut pit, surrounded by an area that was once used for agricultural production. Also, the facility operations are small and temporary in nature and would be conducted in such a manner as to minimize impacts to vegetation, as described in Section 8.D. Additionally, pollution control would be utilized on equipment operations and production limits would be established to protect the surrounding environment.

E. Human Health

Permit #3253-00 would incorporate conditions to ensure that the portable wash plant and generator operations would be operated in compliance with all applicable air quality rules and standards. These rules and standards are designed to be protective of human health. The air emissions from this facility would be minor, as described in Section 8.F., and would be further minimized by the use of water spray and other emissions limits established in Permit #3253-00. Therefore, only minor impacts would be expected upon human health from operating this equipment.

F. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The portable wash plant and generator operations would not affect access to recreational and wilderness activities in the proposed initial area because the site is private property and in an area designated and used for such operations. Thus, no changes to recreational and wilderness activities, or access to those activities, are expected from operations of this equipment. Additionally, noise from the facility would be minimal because the facility would operate within the confines of an open-cut pit. Also, the facility would be a small and temporary source. Therefore, any changes in the quality of recreational and wilderness activities from noise, created by operating the equipment at the site, would be minor and intermittent.

G. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

The portable wash plant and generator operations are small and temporary sources, which would only have minor effects on quality and distribution of employment in the area because Rock would only use 4 new employees for the project. Therefore, any effects on quality and distribution of employment that would occur would be minor and short-lived.

H. Distribution of Population

The portable wash plant and generator operations are small and would create 4 new employment opportunities with Rock. Also, no individuals would permanently relocate to the area as a result of operating this equipment. Therefore, the wash plant and generator operations would not disrupt the normal population distribution in the area.

I. Demands of Government Services

Minor increases would be seen in traffic on existing roadways in the area while the wash plant and generator operations are in progress. In addition, government services would be required for acquiring the appropriate permits from government agencies. Demands for government services would be minor.

J. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The wash plant and generator operations would represent only a minor increase in the industrial activity in the given area because of the small size of the operations and the portable and temporary nature of the facility. No additional industrial or commercial activity is expected as a result of the proposed operation.

K. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

Rock would be allowed, by permit, to operate in areas designated by EPA as attainment or unclassified. Therefore, Permit #3253-00 would contain limits, which would be protective of air quality and the ambient air quality standards while the facility is operating in these areas, as a locally adopted environmental plan or goal. Because the facility is a small and portable source, and would have intermittent and seasonal operations, any effects from the facility would be minor and short-lived.

L. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The wash plant and generator operations would cause minor cumulative and secondary impacts to the social and economic aspects of the human environment in the immediate area because the source is a portable, temporary source. Minor increases in traffic would have minor effects on local traffic in the immediate area, thus, having a direct effect on the social environment. Because the source is relatively small and temporary in nature, only minor economic impacts to the local economy could be expected from the operation of the facility. Thus, minor cumulative effects would also result to the local economy, but would be temporary in nature.

Recommendation: An EIS is not required.

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is an appropriate level of analysis: All potential effects resulting from construction and operation of the proposed facility are minor, therefore, an EIS is not required.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: Department of Environmental Quality - Permitting and Compliance Division (Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau); Montana Natural Heritage Program; and State Historic Preservation Office (Montana Historical Society).

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Department of Environmental Quality (Air and Waste Management Bureau and Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau), Montana Natural Heritage Program, and State Historic Preservation Office (Montana Historical Society).

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