

Legal Notice

Notice of Application for an Amendment to Operating Permit No. 00189 for Venture Stone, LLC

Venture Stone, LLC (Venture Stone) filed an application for an amendment (001) with the Department of Environmental Quality to add five rock collecting sites to the operating permit (Operating Permit No. 00189). Venture Stone is a decorative rock picking operation which collects surface minerals from slopes and hillsides throughout Cascade County, Montana, generally 13 miles south and west of Great Falls. The current operating permit consists of six sites and one processing site. The new sites are:

Site 7: Site 7 covers 763.3 acres and is located in Township 20 North, Range 01 East, Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10.

Site 8: Site 8 covers 161.3 acres and is located in Township 20 North, Range 01 East, Sections 14 and 23.

Site 9: Site 9 covers 295.1 acres and is located in Township 19 North, Range 02 East, Section 23.

Site 10: Site 10 covers 1,376.6 acres and is located in Township 18 North, Range 02 East, Sections 13 and 18.

Site 11: Site 11 covers 917.3 acres and is located in Township 19 N, Range 04 East, Sections 24, 25, and 26, and Township 19 North, Range 05 East, Section 19.

Mining on sites 7 through 11 would consist of harvesting surface sandstone rocks. The amendment would add about 3,514 acres to the current operating permit area of about 10,209 acres.

DEQ has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed operation. Copies of the Draft EA can be obtained on DEQ's website at <http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea/hardrock>. Hard copies are available upon request. Comments on the Draft EA may be mailed to the following postal or e-mail address:

Herb Rolfes
Operating Permit Section Supervisor
Hard Rock Mining Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
(406) 444-3841 or hrolfes@mt.gov

Comments must be received by September 28, 2020.

Requests for the amendment application material can be made electronically via the following website:

[https://montanadeq.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/\(S\(lknbx0kokaloo31hspngnghe\)\)/supporthome.aspx](https://montanadeq.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/(S(lknbx0kokaloo31hspngnghe))/supporthome.aspx).

General information about the application can be viewed at: <http://deq.mt.gov/Mining/hardrock> (the website for electronically requesting information is also linked from this page).