

# OPENCUT STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

JULY 13, 2016

The meeting started at 1:00 pm by Ed Coleman.

**In attendance:** John Anderson – Fergus County, Joe Aline – Shumaker Trucking and Excavating, Harold Blattie – MACO, Ed Coleman – DEQ, Chris Cronin – DEQ, Neil Harrington – Citizen, Teresa Kinley – DNRC, Rob Koelzer – Schellinger Construction, Nicole Newman – DEQ, Cole Peebles – Great West Engineering, Dana Rauser – Broadwater County, Jennifer Skartveit – DEQ, Moriah Thunstrom – MDT, and Steve Wade – MCA

**Via Telephone:** Stacy Hill – Riverside Contracting, Mike Newton – Fisher Sand and Gravel, Laura Pfister – New Field, Rod Samdahl – Samdal Consulting, and Joe Sylvester – WyoBen

**Introduction of Participants** - Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

## DEQ UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

### **DEQ Opencut Program – Ed Coleman**

- Staffing – Opencut is fully staffed for first time since October. Stuart Bailey has joined us as a Systems Analyst and Nicole Newman as Administrative Support.
- Bond Releases – See handout, if you have a question please contact JJ.
- Workload – We are receiving a fewer number of applications, however, the applications that are coming in are more complicated and controversial.
- Public Meetings – We have had two so far this year, one in the Superior area and one in the Emigrant area. When you are searching for gravel sources please be aware of the surroundings, keep in mind rural housing and rural businesses.

### **NEW OPENCUT FORMS**

- New Forms – Available on our website - <http://deq.mt.gov/Land/opencut/opencutpermitforms>
- The new forms are 2010 version you will need a 2010 version in order for the forms to work.
  - Sage Grouse Reclamation Requirements
    - Private Land - We will not require it to be reclaimed to Sage Grouse habitat if the landowner does not require it. Please see the Landowner Consultation Form.

### **OTHER OPENCUT ISSUES**

- Potential Legislation – none at this time
- Training – We can give training if you would like, we would just request that it be done in coordination with another meeting to ensure that the attendance is worthwhile.
- Reclamation Conference – <http://naamp12016.com>
- Other Stakeholder Issues
  - FEMA – SHPO reports, can be given if asked.
  - Assignment Applications (CC) – Please be diligent when submitting an Assignment, make sure the reclamation date is not expired and the permit is not outside its boundaries. If you are not sure or have questions, please consider doing a Pre Application as this could save everyone time in the long run.
- Announcement: The DEQ **Sand and Gravel General Permit** expires 10/31/2017. In the fall of 2016 the DEQ **Water Protection Bureau** will begin soliciting feedback from sand and gravel operators as part of the process of renewing the General Permit. Another announcement will be made at the next Opencut Stakeholder meeting with more details on how interested parties can provide feedback on the current permit. **Water Protection will be creating a stakeholders group, if you want to be a part of that group contact the Water Protection Bureau.**

### **PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Action Items
- Identify Topics For Next Meeting
  - Sage Grouse
- Next Meeting – October 6 at 1:00 in Room 111 at the Metcalf Building