



June 29, 2006

RE: Final Checklist Environmental Analysis Cover Letter

Dear Reader:

ES Stone and Structure, Inc. (ES Stone) of Ryegate, MT applied for an operating permit amendment to quarry and collect rock products on two new sites on February 23 and 27, 2006. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a Draft Checklist Environmental Assessment (CEA) on April 10, 2006 evaluating the potential impacts from the project and asking for comments on the proposed operation. The Draft CEA addressed issues and concerns raised during public involvement and from agency scoping. No comments were received on the Draft CEA.

A reclamation bond is being prepared by DEQ. The agencies have decided to approve the permit as proposed contingent on receipt of the reclamation bond. Following is a summary of permit conditions before and after amendment 001 approval:

	Before Amendment 001	After Amendment 001
Permit Area:	174 acres	479 acres
Permitted Disturbance:	107 acres	412 acres
Bonded Acres:	107 acres	412 acres
Bond:	\$70,000 posted	to be determined
Total Bond:	\$104,550	"

Information on the ES Stone operating permit amendment application can be obtained by writing or calling the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, c/o Herb Rolfes, P. O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, telephone (406) 444-3841; e-mail address hrolfes@mt.gov.

Warren D. McCullough, Chief
Environmental Management Bureau

Date

