

State of Montana
Department of Environmental Quality
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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Butte Field Office
106 North Parkmont
Butte, MT 59701

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Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Graymont Western U.S., Inc. Proposed Mine Expansion, Broadwater County, Montana.

Graymont Western U.S., Inc., operates an open pit limestone quarry west of Townsend, Montana, in the Limestone Hills. The mine operates under Operating Permit No. 00105, issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Plan of Operations #MTM78300, issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Graymont Western U.S., Inc. proposes to expand the currently permitted mine to the south resulting in a continuation of Graymont's existing operations in the Limestone Hills. Graymont (formerly Continental Lime Inc.) produces calcium oxide (quicklime and lime), hydrated lime, and other lime products at the Mine. The proposed amendment would expand the existing permit boundary to encompass approximately 1,940 acres of additional public land currently administered by BLM and represents approximately 50 years of mine production including 15 years of currently permitted mine life. Proposed mine expansion would include quarry areas, mine facilities, ore storage sites, soil salvage stockpiles, haul roads, and overburden disposal areas.

The Final EIS analyzes the potential impacts of: 1) the Proposed Action 2) No Action, (existing life-of-mine permit), and 3) Alternative A, Modified Pit Backfill, which would reduce the visual effect of highwalls and create varied slope angles resulting in areas conducive to establishment of diverse habitat to support wildlife.

The Final EIS addresses issues and concerns raised during the public scoping period and the public meetings held in Helena and Townsend February 3rd and 4th, 2009, as well as public comments received during the public review period between January 2, and March 2, 2009. The operating permit is available for review at the DEQ office in Helena and at the BLM office in Butte.

DEQ and BLM have tentatively selected Alternative A, Modified Pit Backfill alternative as the preferred alternative. The final decision will be made in the Record of Decision that will be prepared no sooner than 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS is published in the Federal register.

The Final EIS contains public comments and response and changes to the Draft EIS.

The agencies appreciate the public's involvement in preparing the Final EIS. Additional copies are available upon request from DEQ or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.mt.gov. A copy of the Record of Decision will be sent to everyone who receives the Final EIS.



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