

AIR QUALITY PERMIT

Issued To: Weaver Gravel, Inc.
1190 Elk Park Road
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

Permit #3256-00
Application Complete: 4/23/03
Preliminary Determination Issued: 5/05/03
Department Decision Issued: 05/21/03
Permit Final: 06/06/03
AFS #777-3256

An air quality permit, with conditions, is hereby granted to Weaver Gravel, Inc. (Weaver), 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. Plant Location

Weaver operates a portable crushing/screening facility that will originally locate in Section 11, Township 29 North, Range 20 West, in Flathead County, Montana. However, Permit #3256-00 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.* A summertime addendum to this air quality permit is included, to allow Weaver to operate in or within 10 kilometers (km) of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.

B. Permitted Equipment

Weaver operates a portable crushing/screening operation. A complete list of the permitted equipment is contained in Section I.A of the permit analysis.

Section II: Limitations and Conditions

A. Operational Limitations and Conditions

1. Weaver shall not cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere from any Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources (NSPS) affected crusher, any visible emissions that exhibit an opacity of 15% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes (ARM 17.8.340, ARM 17.8.752, and 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart OOO).
2. Weaver shall not cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere from any other NSPS affected equipment, such as screens or conveyor transfers, any visible emissions that exhibit an opacity of 10% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes (ARM 17.8.340, ARM 17.8.752, and 40 CFR 60, Subpart OOO).
3. Weaver shall not cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere, from any non-NSPS affected equipment, 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).

4. Water and water spray bars shall be available on site at all times and used, as necessary, to maintain compliance with the opacity limitations in Sections II.A.1, II.A.2, and II.A.3 (ARM 17.8.752).
5. Weaver 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).
6. Weaver 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.5 (ARM 17.8.752).
7. Weaver shall not operate more than 3 crushers at any given time and the combined maximum rated design capacity shall not exceed 610 tons per hour (TPH) (ARM 17.8.749).
8. Total crusher production from the facility shall be limited to 5,343,600 tons during any rolling 12-month time period (ARM 17.8.749).
9. Weaver shall not operate more than 1 screen at any given time and the maximum rated design capacity shall not exceed 350 TPH (ARM 17.8.749).
10. Total screen production from the facility shall be limited to 3,066,000 tons during any rolling 12-month time period (ARM 17.8.749).
11. Weaver shall not operate more than two diesel generators at any given time and the combined maximum rated design capacity shall not exceed 545 kW (ARM 17.8.749).
12. If the permitted equipment is used in conjunction with any other equipment owned or operated by Weaver, 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).
13. Weaver shall comply with all applicable standards and limitations, and the reporting, recordkeeping, testing, and notification requirements contained in 40 CFR 60, Subpart OOO (ARM 17.8.340 and 40 CFR 60, Subpart OOO).

B. Testing Requirements

1. Within 60 days after achieving the maximum production rate, but no later than 180 days after initial startup, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Method 9 opacity test and/or other methods and procedures, as specified in 40 CFR Part 60.675, must be performed on any NSPS affected equipment to demonstrate compliance with the emissions limitations contained in Sections II.A.1 and II.A.2 (ARM 17.8.340, 40 CFR Part 60, General Provisions and Subpart OOO).
2. All compliance source tests shall conform to the requirements of the Montana Source Test Protocol and Procedures Manual (ARM 17.8.106).

3. The Department may require further testing (ARM 17.8.105).

C. Operational Reporting Requirements

1. If the crushing/screening plant is 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. Weaver 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 Weaver as a permanent business record for at least 5 years following the date of the measurement, shall be available at the plant site for inspection by the Department, and shall be submitted to the Department upon request (ARM 17.8.749).

3. Weaver 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. Weaver 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. Weaver shall document, by month, the total crushing production for the facility. By the 25th day of each month, Weaver shall total the crushing production during the previous 12 months to verify compliance with the limitation in Section II.A.8. A written report of the compliance verification shall be submitted along with the annual emission inventory (ARM 17.8.749).

6. Weaver shall document, by month, the total screening production for the facility. By the 25th day of each month, Weaver shall total the screening production during the previous 12 months to verify compliance with the limitation in Section II.A.10. A written report of the compliance verification shall be submitted along with the annual emission inventory (ARM 17.8.749).

Section III: Addendum

Weaver shall comply with all conditions in Addendum 1 to this permit as appropriate (ARM 17.8.749).

Section IV: General Conditions

- A. Inspection – Weaver 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 Weaver fails to appeal as indicated below.
- C. Compliance with Statutes and Regulations - Nothing in this permit shall be construed as relieving Weaver 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.
- H. Permit Fees - Pursuant to Section 75-2-220, MCA, as amended by the 1991 Legislature, failure to pay by Weaver of an annual operation fee 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. Weaver 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
Weaver Gravel, Inc.
Permit Number 3256-00

I. Introduction/Process Description

A. Permitted Equipment

On April 3, 2003, Weaver Gravel, Inc. (Weaver) submitted a complete permit application to operate a portable crushing/screening facility consisting of a portable jaw crusher (up to 130 tons per hour (TPH)), a cone crusher (up to 130 TPH), a crusher (up to 350 TPH), a 3-deck screen (up to 350 TPH), a diesel generator (up to 250 kilowatts (kW)), a diesel generator (up to 295 kW), and associated equipment. The proposed original location for the facility is the Section 11, Township 29 North, Range 20 West, in Flathead County, Montana. Permit #3256-00 will apply to the source 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.* A summertime addendum to this air quality permit is included, to allow Weaver to operate in or within 10 kilometers (km) of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.

B. Process Description

Weaver proposes to use this crushing/screening plant to crush and sort sand and gravel materials for use in various construction operations. For a typical operational setup, unprocessed materials are loaded into the crushing/screening plant by a hopper and transferred by conveyor and passed through the crushers. Materials are crushed and sent to the screen, where materials are separated and conveyed 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).

Weaver 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

Weaver 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, Weaver 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 Weaver, at the time of issuance of Permit #3256-00, the crushing/screening equipment to be used under Permit #3256-00 may be subject to New Source Performance Standards (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 Weaver 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. Weaver 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. Weaver 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. Weaver 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. Weaver submitted an affidavit of publication of public notice for the April 10, 2003, issue of the *Hungry Horse News*, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Columbia Falls in Flathead 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 Weaver 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 Weaver, 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. A source may not increase its emissions beyond those found in its permit unless the source applies for and receives another permit.
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 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. Potential to Emit (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 #3256-00 for the Weaver facility, the following conclusions were made:
- a. The facility's permitted 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 subject to current NSPS standards (40 CFR 60, Subpart A General Provisions, and Subpart OOO, Non-Metallic Mineral Processing Plants).
 - 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 Weaver will be a minor source of emissions as defined under Title V. However, if minor sources subject to NSPS are required to obtain a Title V Operating Permit, Weaver will be required to obtain a Title V Operating Permit.

III. Emission Inventory

Source	Tons/Year					
	PM	PM ₁₀	NO _x	VOC	CO	SO _x
Jaw Crusher (up to 130 TPH)	1.42	0.68				
Cone Crusher (up to 130 TPH)	1.42	0.68				
Crusher (up to 350 TPH)	3.83	1.84				
Screen (up to 350 TPH)	24.14	11.50				
Material Transfer	22.23	10.73				
Pile Forming	25.75	12.26				
Bulk Loading	6.44	3.07				
Diesel Generator (up to 250 KW)	3.23	3.23	45.52	3.63	9.81	3.01
Diesel Generator (up to 295 KW)	3.81	3.81	53.71	4.28	11.57	3.55
Haul Roads	2.74	1.23				
Total	95.01	49.03	99.23	7.91	21.38	6.56

- A complete emission inventory for Permit #3256-00 is on file with the Department.

IV. BACT Determination

A BACT determination is required for any new or modified source. Weaver shall install on the new or modified source the maximum air pollution control capability that is technologically practicable and economically feasible, except that BACT shall be used. The Department reviewed previous BACT determinations for other recently permitted similar sources prior to making the following BACT determinations.

Weaver shall not cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere from any NSPS affected crusher any visible emissions that exhibit an opacity of 15% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes. Weaver shall not cause to be discharged into the atmosphere from any other NSPS affected equipment, such as screens or conveyor transfers, any visible emissions that exhibit an opacity of 10% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes. Weaver shall not cause to be discharged into the atmosphere from any non-NSPS affected equipment any visible emissions that exhibit an opacity of 20% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes. Weaver 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. Weaver 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.

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

V. Existing Air Quality

Permit #3256-00 is issued for the operation of a portable crushing/screening plant to be originally located in Section 11, Township 29 North, Range 20 West, in Flathead County, Montana. This proposed site is designated as a PM₁₀ nonattainment area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Additionally, the facility may operate in or within 10 km of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas during the summer months. Further, 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 #3256-00 will cover the operation while operating at any location within Montana, excluding those counties that have a Department approved permitting program and 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.

Addendum 1
Weaver Gravel, Inc.
Permit # 3256-00

An addendum to air quality Permit #3256-00 is issued to Weaver Gravel, Inc. (Weaver) pursuant to Sections 75-2-204 and 75-2-211 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA), as amended, and Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.8.765, as amended, for the following:

I. Permitted Equipment

On April 3, 2003, Weaver submitted a complete permit application to operate a portable jaw crusher (up to 130 tons per hour (TPH)), a cone crusher (up to 130 TPH), a crusher (up to 350 TPH), a 3-deck screen (up to 350 TPH), a diesel generator (up to 250 kilowatts (kW)), a diesel generator (up to 295 kW), and associated equipment. Additionally, Weaver requested an addendum to operate the crushing/screening operation and allow operations in or within 10 kilometers (km) of the following PM₁₀ (particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less) nonattainment areas: Libby, Thompson Falls, Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, and Butte.

II. Seasonal and Site Restrictions

Addendum 1 applies to the Weaver facility while operating at any location in or within 10 kilometers of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas. Additionally, seasonal and site restrictions apply to the facility as follows:

- A. During the winter season (October 1-March 31) – Weaver may not operate at any location in or within 10 km of any PM₁₀ nonattainment area.
- B. During the summer season (April 1-September 30) – Weaver may operate at any location in or within 10 kilometers of the Libby, Thompson Falls, Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, and Butte PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.
- C. Weaver shall comply with the limitations and conditions contained in Addendum 1 to Permit #3256-00 while operating in or within 10 km of any of the previously listed PM₁₀ nonattainment areas. Addendum 1 shall be valid until revoked or modified. The Department of Environmental Quality (Department) reserves the authority to modify Addendum 1 at any time based on local conditions of any future site. These conditions may include, but are not limited to, local terrain, meteorological conditions, proximity to residences, or other businesses, etc.

III. Limitations and Conditions

- A. Operational
 - 1. All visible emissions from the crushing/screening plant may not exhibit an opacity of 10% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes (ARM 17.8.749).
 - 2. Water spray bars must be operated on the crushers, screens, and all material transfer points, whenever the equipment is in operation, to maintain compliance with the 10% opacity limitation (ARM 17.8.749).

3. Weaver shall not cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere from any other equipment, such as screens or transfer points, any visible emissions that exhibit opacity of 10% or greater averaged over 6 consecutive minutes (ARM 17.8.749).
4. Weaver shall not cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere from haul roads, access roads, parking lots, or the general plant property any visible fugitive emissions that exhibit an opacity of 10% or greater (ARM 17.8.749).
5. Weaver shall treat all unpaved portions of the access roads, parking lots, and general plant area with water and/or chemical dust suppressant as necessary to maintain compliance with the 10% opacity limitation (ARM 17.8.749).
6. The combined crusher production from the 3 crushers is limited to 14,640 tons during any rolling 24-hour time period (ARM 17.8.749).
7. The screening production from the screen is limited to 8,400 tons during any rolling 24-hour time period (ARM 17.8.749).

B. Operational Reporting Requirements

1. Weaver shall provide the Department with written notification of job completion within 10 working days of job completion (ARM 17.8.749).
2. Weaver shall provide written notice of relocation of the permitted equipment within 15 working days before the physical transfer of the equipment (ARM 17.8.765).
3. Production information for the sites covered by this addendum must be submitted to the Department with the annual emissions inventory request or within 30 days of completion of the project. The information must include the following (ARM 17.8.749):
 - a. Tons of material crushed by each crusher at each site
 - b. Tons of material screened by the screen at each site
 - c. Tons of bulk gravel loaded at each site
 - d. Daily hours of operation at each site
 - e. Gallons of diesel used for the generators at each site
 - f. Fugitive dust information consisting of a listing of all plant vehicles including the following for each type:
 - i. Number of vehicles
 - ii. Vehicle type
 - iii. Vehicle weight, loaded
 - iv. Vehicle weight, unloaded
 - v. Number of tires on vehicles
 - vi. Average trip length

- vii. Number of trips per day per vehicle
 - viii. Average vehicle speed
 - ix. Area of activity
 - x. Vehicle fuel usage (gasoline and diesel) annual total
 - g. Fugitive dust control for haul roads and general plant area:
 - i. Hours of operation of water trucks
 - ii. Application schedule for chemical dust suppressant, if applicable
- 4. Weaver shall document, by day, the combined total crushing production. Weaver shall sum the combined total crushing production during the previous 24 hours to verify compliance with the limitation in Section III.A.6. A written report of compliance verification and the emissions inventory shall be submitted to the Department annually. The report for the previous calendar year may be submitted along with the annual emission inventory (ARM 17.8.749).
- 5. Weaver shall document, by day, the combined total screening production. Weaver shall sum the combined total screening production during the previous 24 hours to verify compliance with the limitation in Section III.A.7. A written report of compliance verification and the emissions inventory shall be submitted to the Department annually. The report for the previous calendar year may be submitted along with the annual emission inventory (ARM 17.8.749).

Addendum 1 Analysis
Weaver Gravel, Inc.
Permit #3256-00

I. Permitted Equipment

Weaver Gravel, Inc. (Weaver) operates a portable a portable jaw crusher (up to 130 tons per hour (TPH)), a cone crusher (up to 130 TPH), a crusher (up to 350 TPH), a 3-deck screen (up to 350 TPH), a diesel generator (up to 250 kilowatts (kW)), a diesel generator (up to 295 kW), and associated equipment.

II. Process Description

Weaver proposes to use this crushing/screening plant to crush and sort sand and gravel materials for use in various construction operations. For a typical operational setup, unprocessed materials are loaded into the crushing/screening plant by a hopper and transferred by conveyor and passed through the crushers. Materials are crushed and sent to the screen, where materials are separated and conveyed to stockpile.

III. Applicable Rules and Regulations

The following are partial quotations 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 of Environmental Quality (Department). Upon request, the Department will provide references for locations of complete copies of all applicable rules and regulations or copies where appropriate.

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

- A. 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.
- B. 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. A source may not increase its emissions beyond those found in its permit unless the source applies for and receives another permit.
- C. ARM 17.8.765 Transfer of Permit. An air quality permit may be transferred from one person to another if:
 - 1. Written notice of Intent to Transfer location and public notice is sent to the Department;
 - 2. The source will operate in the new location for a period of less than 1 year; and
 - 3. The source will not have any significant impact on any nonattainment area or any Class I area.

Weaver must submit proof of compliance with the transfer and public notice requirements when they transfer to any of the locations covered by this addendum and will only be allowed to stay in the new location for a period of less than 1 year. Also, the conditions and controls of this addendum will keep Weaver from having a significant impact on certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.

IV. Emission Inventory

Source	Lb/Day					
	PM	PM ₁₀	NO _x	VOC	CO	SO _x
Jaw Crusher (up to 130 TPH)	7.80	3.74				
Cone Crusher (up to 130 TPH)	7.80	3.74				
Crusher (up to 350 TPH)	21.00	10.08				
Screen (up to 350 TPH)	132.30	63.00				
Material Transfer	121.80	58.80				
Pile Forming	141.12	67.20				
Bulk Loading	35.28	16.80				
Diesel Generator (up to 250 KW)	17.70	17.70	249.43	19.87	53.75	16.49
Diesel Generator (up to 295 KW)	20.89	20.89	294.32	23.45	63.42	19.46
Haul Roads	15.00	6.75				
Total	520.69	268.70	543.75	43.32	117.17	35.95

* A complete emission inventory for Addendum 1 to Permit #3256-00 is on file with the Department.

V. Existing Air Quality

On July 1, 1987, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated new National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM₁₀ (particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less). Due to exceedances of the national standards for PM₁₀, the cities of Kalispell (and the nearby Evergreen area), Columbia Falls, Butte, Whitefish, Libby, Missoula, and Thompson Falls were designated by EPA as nonattainment for PM₁₀. As a result of this designation, the EPA required the Department and the City-County Health Departments to submit PM₁₀ State Implementation Plans (SIP). The SIPs consisted of emission control plans that controlled fugitive dust emissions from roads, parking lots, construction, and demolition, since technical studies identified these sources to be the major contributors to PM₁₀ emissions.

This addendum is for a portable crushing/screening operation to locate at sites in or within 10 km of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas during the summer months. The more stringent operating conditions contained in the addendum will minimize any potential impact on the nonattainment areas and protect the national ambient air quality standards.

VI. Air Quality Impacts

Permit #3256-00 will cover the operations of this portable crushing/screening facility while operating at those areas classified as being in attainment with federal ambient air quality standards and those areas still undefined (not yet classified). Based on the information provided and the conditions established in Permit #3256-00, the amount of controlled emissions generated by this facility will not exceed any set ambient air quality standard for operations in these areas.

Addendum 1 to Permit #3256-00 will cover the operations of this portable crushing/screening facility, while operating in or within 10 km of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas during the

summer months (April 1 through September 30). Thus, the limitations and conditions established in Addendum 1 would further reduce emissions in these areas and would be protective of the ambient air quality standards. In addition, this source is portable and any air quality impacts will be minimal.

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
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FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued For: Weaver Gravel, Inc.
1190 Elk Park Road
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

Permit Number: #3256-00

Preliminary Determination Issued: May 5, 2003

Department Decision Issued: May 21, 2003

Permit Final: June 6, 2003

1. *Legal Description of Site:* Weaver submitted an application to operate a portable crushing/screening plant in Section 11, Township 29 North, Range 20 West, in Flathead County, Montana. Permit #3256-00 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.*
2. *Description of Project:* The permit application proposes the construction and operation of a portable crushing/screening plant that would consist of a portable jaw crusher (up to 130 tons per hour (TPH)), a cone crusher (up to 130 TPH), a crusher (up to 350 TPH), a 3-deck screen (up to 350 TPH), a diesel generator (up to 250 kilowatts (kW)), a diesel generator (up to 295 kW), and associated equipment. For a typical operational setup, Weaver proposes to use this crushing/screening plant to crush and sort sand and gravel materials for use in various construction operations. For a typical operational setup, unprocessed materials are loaded into the crushing/screening plant by a hopper and transferred by conveyor and passed through the crushers. Materials are crushed and sent to the screen, where materials are separated and conveyed to stockpile.
3. *Objectives of Project:* Weaver, in an effort to produce business and revenue for the company, submitted a complete permit application for the crushing/screening plant. The issuance of Permit #3256-00 would allow Weaver to operate the crushing/screening equipment 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 IEMB. If this were the case, a more extensive EA for the site 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 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 Weaver 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 #3256-00.
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 crushing/screening operations. The crushing/screening operations would be considered a minor source of emissions, by industrial standards, with intermittent and seasonal operations. Therefore, 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 storm water runoff and pollutant deposition, but such impacts would be minor as the facility would be a minor source of emissions (with seasonal and intermittent operations) and only minor amounts of water would be used for pollution control. 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 deposition would occur. There is an ephemeral stream that crosses through the permitted area and proposed expansion area. When runoff is high, surface water follows an obscure channel into a riparian (marshy) area west of the project. However, no fisheries resources are in the immediate vicinity of the project area. Additionally, the facility would be required to operate in accordance with the quarry's mine operating permit, which includes stipulations for addressing the protection of surface and groundwater resources. Therefore, because the amount of air emissions generated would correspond to a small amount of pollutant deposition to local water resources, and because the

stream is ephemeral and contains no fisheries resources, and because the operations would be required to comply with all state and federal permits issued in relation to the operation of equipment and pit development, and because the facility would be operating within the confines of an open cut pit, any impacts to the terrestrial and aquatic life and habitat from crushing/screening operations would be minor.

B. Water Quality, Quantity, and Distribution

Water would be used for dust suppression on the surrounding roadways and areas of operation and for pollution control for equipment operations. However, water use would only cause a minor disturbance to the area since only relatively small amounts of water would be needed. Additionally, the groundwater water flows within the immediate area are small (the well at the Weaver residence is 60 feet deep and produces about 20 gallons per minute and static water level is about 20 feet deep) and pit expansion into the groundwater would require groundwater to be pumped and reinfiltated into the alluvium (down gradient of the quarry operations). Also, there is a permitted diversion and impoundment for surface water (used primarily for irrigation of alfalfa fields) between the quarry and the Weaver well site, which is also used to control excess surface water runoff. Therefore, any impacts from this proposed project would be minor as a result of using water for dust suppression and equipment operations because only small amounts of water would be needed and measures to control water use (water quality, quantity, and distribution) would be required.

C. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability, and Moisture

The crushing/screening operations would have only minimal impacts upon soils in the proposed site location (due to the construction and use of the crushing/screening facility), because the facility is relatively small in size, the facility would have seasonal and intermittent operations, the historical usage of the site is the same as the proposed operations, and the topography and geology of the site has little soil to impact, and there would be good pollution dispersion for the area of operations. Therefore, 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 operate in an existing open-cut pit, would operate in an area where good pollutant dispersion would occur, and would be a minor source of emissions by industrial standards, would be temporary in nature, emissions impacts from the crushing/screening facility (upon vegetation cover, quantity, and quality) would be minor.

As described in Section 8.F of this EA, the amount of 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 associated water resource and soil disturbance would be minimal, as a result of equipment construction and operation (as described in Sections 8.B and 8.C), corresponding vegetative impacts would also be minor.

E. Aesthetics

The crushing/screening operations may be visible (depending upon the location of the viewer) and would create additional noise in the area. However, Permit #3256-00 and Addendum 1 would include conditions to control emissions, including visible emissions, from the plant. Also, because the crushing/screening operations would operate on an intermittent and seasonal basis, would locate within an existing pit on private property, and trees and terrain would obscure the view of the pit (from most vantage points), any visual and noise impacts would be minor.

F. Air Quality

The air quality impacts from the crushing/screening operations would be minor because Permit #3256-00 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 facility's production capacity would be limited and the facility would be considered a minor source of air pollution by industrial standards. Also, the facility operations would be limited while operating in certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas (including production rates and visible emissions limits) by Addendum 1 to Permit #3256-00 and these limits would be protective of the air quality for these areas. The proposed (initial) site location has been identified as Section 11, Township 29 North, Range 20 West, in Flathead County, Montana and is in the Columbia Falls PM₁₀ nonattainment area.

When operating outside the nonattainment areas, the operations would be limited, by Permit #3256-00, to total emissions of 250 tons/year or less of any regulated pollutant from non-fugitive sources at the plant, in addition to any additional equipment operated at the site. Furthermore, the emissions from this facility would be subject to BACT. For example, the plant would be required to use water to reduce emissions from equipment operations, storage piles, and haul roads. Also, the operation would have temporary and intermittent use, thereby further reducing potential air quality impacts from the facility. Air quality impacts would be minor.

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 are two such environmental resources found 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.

The species of concern has been identified as the Grizzly Bear and the Lynx. The area in question has been generalized from many miles of potential habitat, to establish possible areas that the Grizzly and Lynx may be found. Also, the site in question lays near (in relative comparison to the size of the defined prospective/potential habitat) to the outer boundary of the potential habitat and is also at the base of the very steep talus slope and adjacent to an unimproved roadway. Therefore, while no impacts would be expected (because the bears and lynx would not likely frequent this area), any such impacts would be minor and short-lived.

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

Due to the size of the facility, the crushing/screening operations would only require small quantities of water, air, and energy for proper operation. Small quantities of water would be used for dust suppression and would control emissions being generated at the site. Energy requirements would also be small because the facility is a crushing/screening operation that would be powered by two small diesel generators (by industrial standards), and the facility would have seasonal and intermittent use. In addition, impacts to air resources would be minor because the source is small by industrial standards, with intermittent and seasonal operations, and because air pollutants generated by the facility would be widely dispersed. Therefore, any impacts to water, air, and energy resources would be minor.

I. Historical and Archaeological Sites

The Department previously 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 concluded that there are no previously recorded historical or archaeological resources of concern within the area

proposed for initial operations. According to past correspondence from SHPO, given the previous industrial disturbance in the area, there would be a low likelihood of adverse disturbance to any known archaeological or historic site. Therefore, no impacts upon historical or archaeological sites would be expected as a result of the proposed crushing/screening plant operations.

J. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The crushing/screening operations would cause minor cumulative and secondary impacts to the physical and biological aspects of the human environment because the facility would have only seasonal and intermittent use and because the facility is considered a minor source of air pollutants by industrial standards. 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 existing pit, previously designated and used for such operations. Additionally, this facility, in combination with the other emissions from the site would not be permitted to exceed 250 tons per year of non-fugitive emissions.

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 crushing/screening operation would cause no disruption to the social structures and mores in the area because the source is a minor source of emissions (by industrial standards) and would only have intermittent operations. Additionally, the equipment would be located in a previously developed open-cut pit that has been designated and used for such purposes, in an area removed from the general population, would be a minor source of air pollution, and would be required to

operate under the conditions in Permit #3256-00 and Addendum 1. Thus, no native or traditional communities would be affected by the proposed project operations and no impacts upon social structures or mores would result.

B. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

The cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area would not be impacted by the proposed crushing/screening operations because the site and surrounding area have been previously 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. 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 crushing/screening operations would have little, if any, impact on the local and state tax base and tax revenue because the facility would be a relatively small industrial source (minor source) and have seasonal and intermittent operations. The facility operations would require the use of only a few existing employees. Thus, only minor 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 base and revenue is expected to be minor because the source would also be portable and the money generated for taxes would generally be widespread.

D. Agricultural or Industrial Production

The crushing/screening operations would have only a minor impact on local industrial production since the facility is a minor source of emissions (by industrial standards) and would locate in a previously disturbed industrial area. There would be minor effects on agricultural land because the facility would be operating adjacent to an area that is being used for animal grazing and growing alfalfa. However, the facility is also owned by the family that owns that agricultural land, and the facility would be permitted with operational conditions and limitations that would minimize impacts upon surrounding 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 (at the initial operating site or any other area of operation).

E. Human Health

Permit #3256-00 and Addendum 1 would incorporate conditions to ensure that the crushing/screening facility 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. As described in Section 8.F., the air emissions from this facility would be minimized by the use of water spray and other emission limits established in Permit #3256-00 and Addendum 1. Therefore, only minor impacts would be expected upon human health from the proposed crushing/screening facility.

F. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The crushing/screening plant would be operated at an existing permitted open-cut pit and would have a minor impact upon the access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities because the facility would be operating on private property, in a pit that is already used for the mining of gravel. Thus, no changes to recreational and wilderness activities, or access to those activities, are expected from the operation of the crushing/screening facility. Additionally, noise

from the facility would be minor because the facility would operate within the confines of an existing open cut pit and in an area that is sheltered from the general population. Also, the facility would operate on a seasonal and intermittent basis and is relatively small by industrial standards. Thus, 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 crushing/screening operation is a portable source, with seasonal and intermittent operations, and would have only minor effects on the quantity and distribution of employment in the area. Because Weaver would use only a few existing employees for the project and no new employees would be expected to be added, any effect on the quantity and distribution of employment in the area would be minor.

H. Distribution of Population

No new employees are expected to be used for the operation of the facility and no individuals are expected to permanently relocate to the area as a result of operating the crushing/screening facility. Also, because the facility only requires a few employees to operate and the facility is a portable source, with intermittent and seasonal operations, the crushing/screening operations would not disrupt the normal population distribution in the initial area of operation or any future operating site.

I. Demands of Government Services

Minor increases would be seen in traffic on existing roadways in the area while the crushing/screening 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 because the operations are relatively small and temporary in nature.

J. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The crushing/screening operations would represent only a minor increase in the industrial activity in the given area because the source is a minor source (relatively small size by industrial standards) and portable and temporary in nature. No additional industrial or commercial activity would be expected as a result of the proposed operation.

K. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

Weaver would be allowed, by permit, to operate in areas designated by EPA as attainment or unclassified. Additionally, by the permit addendum, Weaver would be allowed summertime operations in certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas, including the initial site location within the Columbia Falls PM₁₀ nonattainment area (at Section 11, Township 29 North, Range 20 West, in Flathead County, Montana). Permit #3256-00 and Addendum 1 would contain limits, which would be protective of air quality and comply with 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 crushing/screening 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, but minor, effect on the social environment. Because the source is relatively small and temporary, only minor economic impacts to the local economy could be expected from the operation of the facility.

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 (Environmental Management Bureau); Montana Natural Heritage Program; and the State Historic Preservation Office (Montana Historical Society).

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

EA prepared by: Ron Lowney

Date: April 23, 2003