

AIR QUALITY PERMIT

Issued To: Sandon Gravel & Excavating, Inc.
P.O. Box 5557
Kalispell, MT 59903

Permit: #3270-00
Application Complete: 6/23/03
Preliminary Determination Issued: 6/30/03
Department's Decision Issued: 7/16/03
Permit Final: 8/1/03
AFS #: 777-3270

An air quality permit, with conditions, is hereby granted to Sandon Gravel & Excavating, Inc. (Sandon) pursuant to Sections 75-2-204 and 211 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA), as amended, and Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.8.740, *et seq.*, as amended, for the following:

SECTION I. Permitted Facilities

A. Permitted Equipment

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

B. Plant Location

The plant will originally locate in the NE ¼, SE ¼, Section 35 and W ½, W ½, Section 36, Township 30 North, Range 21 West of Flathead County, Montana. However, Permit #3270-00 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.* An addendum to this air quality permit will be required if Sandon intends to locate in or within 10 kilometers (km) of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.

SECTION II. Conditions and Limitations

A. Emission Limitations

1. All visible emissions from any Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources (NSPS) affected equipment, such as the screen or conveyor transfers, shall not 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).
2. All visible emissions from any non-NSPS affected equipment shall not exhibit an opacity of 20% or greater averaged over 6-consecutive minutes (ARM 17.8.304).
3. Water and spray bars shall be available on site at all times and operated as necessary to maintain compliance with the opacity limitations in Sections II.A.1, and II.A.2, (ARM 17.8.749 and ARM 17.8.752).
4. Sandon 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 and ARM 17.8.752).

5. Sandon 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 17.8.749 and ARM 17.8.752).
6. Sandon shall not operate more than one screen at any given time and the maximum rated design capacity shall not exceed 150 tons per hour (ARM 17.8.749).
7. Screening production is limited to 1,314,000 tons during any rolling 12-month time period (ARM 17.8.749).
8. Sandon shall not operate more than one diesel generator at any given time and the maximum rated design capacity shall not exceed 17.5 horsepower (Hp) (ARM 17.8.749).
9. If the permitted equipment is used in conjunction with any other equipment owned or operated by Sandon, 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 period. Any calculations used to establish production levels shall be approved by the Department (ARM 17.8.749).
10. Sandon shall comply with all applicable standards and limitations, and the reporting, recordkeeping, testing, and notification requirements contained in 40 CFR 60, Subpart OOO Standards of Performance for Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants, as appropriate (ARM 17.8.340 and 40 CFR 60, Subpart OOO).

B. Testing Requirements

1. Within 60 days after achieving maximum production, but no later than 180 days after initial start-up, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Method 9 opacity test and/or other methods and procedures as specified in 40 CFR 60.675 must be performed on all NSPS affected equipment to demonstrate compliance with the emission limitations contained in Section II.A.1 and II.A.2 (ARM 17.8.340 and 40 CFR 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 this 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. Sandon 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 not be limited to, all sources of emissions identified in the emission inventory contained in 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 the units 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).

3. Sandon shall notify the Department of any construction or improvement project conducted, pursuant to ARM 17.8.745, 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 startup 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(l)(d) (ARM 17.8.745).

4. Sandon shall maintain on-site records showing daily hours of operation and daily production rates for the last 12 months. The records compiled in accordance with this permit shall be maintained by Sandon as a permanent business record for at least 5 years following the date of the measurement, must be available at the plant site for inspection by the Department, and must be submitted to the Department upon request.
5. Sandon shall document, by month, the total screening production from the facility. By the 25th day of each month, Sandon shall sum the total combined screening production of the facility during the previous 12 months to verify compliance with the limitation in Section II.A.7. A written report of the compliance verification shall be submitted along with the annual emissions inventory (ARM 17.8.749).

SECTION III. General Conditions

- A. Inspection – Sandon 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 Sandon fails to appeal as indicated below.
- C. Compliance with Statutes and Regulations – Nothing in this permit shall be construed as relieving Sandon of the responsibility for complying with any applicable federal or Montana statute, rule, or standard, except as specifically provided for 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’s decision until conclusion of the hearing and issuance of a final decision by the Board. The Department’s decision on the application is not final until 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. Permit Fee – Pursuant to Section 75-2-220, MCA, as amended by the 1991 Legislature, failure to pay the annual operation fee by Sandon may be grounds for revocation of this permit, as required by that section and rules adopted thereunder by the Board.
- H. 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 (ARM 17.8.762).
- 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. Sandon shall comply with the conditions contained in this permit while operating in any location in Montana, except within those areas that have a Department approved permitting program.

Permit Analysis
Sandon Gravel & Excavating, Inc.
Permit #3270-00

I. Introduction/Process Description

A. Permitted Equipment

On June 23, 2003, Sandon Gravel & Excavating, Inc. (Sandon) submitted a complete permit application to operate a portable screening facility. Equipment used at the facility includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. (1) Thomas Pro Tough 300 Shaker Screen (150 tons per hour (TPH) maximum capacity)
2. (1) 2001 Kubota D905 Diesel Generator (17.5 horsepower (Hp) maximum capacity)
3. Associated equipment (load hopper, grizzly, conveyors, etc.)

Sandon's original site location is in the NE ¼, SE ¼, Section 35 and W ½, W ½, Section 36, Township 30 North, Range 21 West of Flathead County, Montana. However, Permit #3270-00 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.* An addendum to this air quality permit will be required if Fisher intends to locate in or within 10 kilometers (km) of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.

B. Source Description

Sandon proposes to use this screening facility to process black dirt for use in various construction operations. For a typical operational setup, unprocessed material is loaded into the grizzly to remove all oversized rock. A conveyor transfers the remaining material to the screen. The screen further separates the material by size. The desired product is then conveyed to one stockpile and the larger material is conveyed to another 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 of Environmental Quality (Department). Upon request, the Department will provide references for location 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 includes 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).

Sandon shall comply with the 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 that, without resulting in reduction of 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 as to create a public nuisance.

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

Sandon must maintain compliance 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, Sandon 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 17.8.310 Particulate Matter, Industrial Process. This rule requires that no person shall cause or authorize to be discharged into the atmosphere particulate matter in excess of the amount set forth in this section.

4. ARM 17.8.340 Standard 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, shall comply with the standards and provisions of 40 CFR Part 60. In order for a screening plant to be subject to NSPS requirements, two specific criteria must be met. First, the screening plant must meet the definition of an affected facility. Second, the equipment in question must have been constructed, reconstructed, or modified after August 31, 1983. Based on the information submitted by Sandon, the screening equipment permitted in Permit #3270-00 is not subject to NSPS requirements. However, NSPS requirements (40 CFR Part 60, Subpart A – General Provisions, and 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart 000 – Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plants) may become applicable with the replacement or addition of equipment to Permit #3270-00.

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 an applicant 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. Sandon submitted the appropriate permit application fee 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; the air quality 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, alter or use any asphalt plant, crusher or screen that has the potential to emit greater than 15 tons per year of any pollutant. Sandon has the potential to emit more than 15 tons per year of Particulate Matter, 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, alteration or use of a source. Sandon 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. Sandon submitted an affidavit of publication of public notice for the June 20, 2003, issue of the *Daily Inter Lake*, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Kalispell, MT, 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 III 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 Sandon 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 the permittee, 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 location, the facility will operate in the new location for less than 1 year, the facility will comply with the FCAA and the Clean Air Act of Montana, and the facility complies with other applicable rules. (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 Modification--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 Federal Clean Air Act (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 (PTE) is less than 250 tons per year of any pollutant (excluding fugitive emissions).

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. 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 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 #3270-00 for Sandon, the following conclusions were made:
 - a. The facility's PTE is less than 100 tons/year for any pollutant.

- b. The facility's PTE is less than 10 tons/year for 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 potentially subject to current NSPS.
- e. This facility is not subject to any current NESHAP standards.
- 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 Sandon 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, Sandon may be required to obtain a Title V Operating Permit.

III. BACT Determination

A BACT determination is required for each new or altered source. Sandon shall install on the new or altered source the maximum air pollution control capability, which is technically practicable and economically feasible, except that BACT shall be utilized. The Department reviewed previous BACT determinations for recently permitted similar sources prior to making the following BACT determinations.

All visible emissions from any NSPS affected equipment such as the screen and conveyor transfers, shall not exhibit an opacity of 10% or greater averaged over 6-consecutive minutes. In addition, all visible emissions from any non-NSPS affected equipment shall not exhibit an opacity of 20% or greater averaged over 6-consecutive minutes. Further, if the permitted equipment is used in conjunction with any other equipment owned or operated by Sandon, 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 period.

Water and water spray bars shall be available on site at all times and operated, as necessary, to maintain compliance with the opacity limitations. Further, Sandon 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. Reasonable precautions consist of treating all unpaved portions of the haul roads, access roads, parking lots, and the general plant area with water and/or chemical dust suppressant, as necessary, to control emissions of airborne particulate matter. The Department determined that using water spray bars, water, and/or chemical dust suppressant to maintain compliance with the opacity limitations and reasonable precautions requirements constitutes BACT in this case.

The control options selected contain control equipment and control costs comparable to other recently permitted similar sources and are capable of achieving the appropriate emission standards.

IV. Emission Inventory

Source	Tons/Year					
	PM	PM ₁₀	NO _x	VOC	CO	SO _x
Thomas Pro Tough 300 Shaker Screen (150 TPH)	10.35	4.93	-----	-----	-----	-----
Material Transfer	3.81	1.84	-----	-----	-----	-----
Pile Forming	5.52	2.63	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bulk Loading	2.76	1.31	-----	-----	-----	-----
Haul Roads	2.74	1.23	-----	-----	-----	-----
Kubota D905 Diesel Generator (17.5 Hp)	0.18	0.18	2.51	0.20	0.54	0.17
Totals	25.35	12.12	2.51	0.20	0.54	0.17

* A complete emission inventory for Permit #3270-00 is on file with the Department.

V. Air Quality Impacts

Permit #3270-00 is issued to Sandon for the operation of a portable screening facility to be located in the NE ¼, SE ¼, Section 35 and W ½, W ½, Section 36, Township 30 North, Range 21 West of Flathead County, Montana. However, Permit #3270-00 applies while operating at any location in Montana, except within those having a Department approved permitting program or areas within ten kilometers (km) of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.

VI. Ambient Air Impact Analysis

In the view of the Department, the amount of controlled emissions generated by the operation of the portable screening plant will not exceed any set ambient standard. In addition, this source is portable and any air quality impacts will be minor and short-lived.

VII. Taking or Damaging Implication Analysis

As required by 2-10-101 through 105, 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
P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 444-3490

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Issued To: Sandon Gravel & Excavating, Inc.
P.O. Box 5557
Kalispell, MT 59903

Air Quality Permit number: 3270-00

Preliminary Determination Issued: 6/30/03

Department Decision Issued: 7/16/03

Permit Final: 8/1/03

1. Legal Description of Site: Sandon submitted a permit application to operate a portable screening plant that would originally locate in the NE ¼, SE ¼, Section 35 and W ½, W ½, Section 36, Township 30 North, Range 21 West of Flathead County, Montana. However, Permit #3270-00 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.* An addendum to this air quality permit would be required if Sandon intends to locate in or within 10 kilometers (km) of certain PM₁₀ nonattainment areas.
2. Description of Project: Sandon proposes to use this screening facility to process black dirt for use in various construction operations. For a typical operational setup, unprocessed material would be loaded into the grizzly to remove all oversized rock. A conveyor would transfer the remaining material to the screen. The screen would further separate the material by size. The desired product would then be conveyed to one stockpile and the larger material would be conveyed to another stockpile
3. Objectives of Project: The objective of the project would be to generate additional business and revenue for the company. Sandon would have the ability to meet customer needs to a greater capacity.
4. Alternatives Considered: In addition to the proposed action, the Department also 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 Sandon demonstrated compliance with all applicable rules and regulations as required for permit issuance. Therefore, the “no-action” alternative was eliminated from further consideration.
5. A Listing of Mitigation, Stipulations, and Other Controls: A list of enforceable conditions, including a BACT analysis, would be included in Permit #3270-00.

6. Regulatory Effects on Private Property: The Department considered alternatives to the conditions imposed in this permit as part of the permit development. The Department determined that the permit conditions are reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with applicable requirements and demonstrate compliance with those requirements and do not unduly restrict private property rights.
7. 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 Resources			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

Minor, if any, impacts on terrestrial or aquatic life and habitats would be expected from the proposed project. Screening operations would typically take place within a previously disturbed industrial location such as an open cut pit. Although deposition of pollutants would occur from the proposed project, as described in Section 7.F of this EA, the Department determined that any impacts from deposition would be minor due to dispersion characteristics of pollutants and the atmosphere, and the conditions that would be included in Permit #3270-00.

B. Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution

Although the proposed project would result in increased air emissions for the area, there would be minor, if any impacts on the water quality, quantity, and distribution in the area of the facility. While deposition of pollutants would occur from the proposed project, as described in Section 7.F of this EA, the Department determined that any impacts from deposition would be minor due to dispersion characteristics of pollutants and the atmosphere, and the conditions that would be included in Permit #3270-00.

Further, water would be required for dust suppression. However, because of the relatively small size and temporary nature of the operation, only minor amounts of water would be required for adequate dust suppression; therefore, any impacts on water quality, quantity, or distribution would be minor.

C. Geology and Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture

Minor, if any, impacts would occur on the geology and soil quality, stability, and moisture from the proposed project because screening facility would generally locate within a previously disturbed open-cut pit. While deposition of pollutants would occur from the proposed project, as described in Section 7.F of this EA, the Department determined that any impacts from deposition would be minor due to dispersion characteristics of pollutants and the atmosphere, and the conditions that would be included in Permit #3270-00.

D. Vegetation Cover, Quantity, and Quality

Minor, if any, impacts would occur on vegetation cover, quantity, and quality because screening facility generally locate within a previously disturbed open-cut pit. While deposition of pollutants would occur from the proposed project, as described in Section 7.F of this EA, the Department determined that any impacts from deposition would be minor due to dispersion characteristics of pollutants and the atmosphere, and the conditions that would be included in Permit #3270-00.

E. Aesthetics

The proposed project would be visible and would create additional noise in the area. However, screening facilities generally locate within a previously disturbed open-cut pit, so the general aesthetics of the area would not be altered. In addition, Permit #3270-00 would include conditions to control emissions, including visible emissions, from the screening facility. Because the screening plant is relatively small, temporary, and seasonal, any aesthetic impact to the area would be minor.

F. Air Quality

Air quality impacts from the proposed project would be minor because the proposed project would be relatively small and would locate in a previously disturbed open-cut pit. Deposition of pollutants would occur from the proposed project. However, the Department determined that any impacts from deposition would be minor due to dispersion characteristics of pollutants (stack height, stack temperature, etc.), and the atmosphere (wind speed, wind direction, ambient temperature, etc.), and conditions that would be included in Permit #3270-00.

Permit #3270-00 would include conditions limiting the opacity from the facility. In addition, Permit #3270-00 would include conditions requiring reasonable precautions be taken to control emissions from haul roads, access roads, parking lots, and the general work area. Further, Permit #3270-00 would also limit total emissions from the screening facility and any additional Fisher equipment operated at the same site to 250 tons per year or less. Further, the Department determined that the screening facility would be a minor source of emissions as defined under the Title V Operating Permit Program because the source's potential to emit is below the major source threshold level of 100 tons per year for any regulated air pollutant.

G. Unique Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources

There would be an increase in emissions in the area where the screening plant would operate, which could result in minor impacts to existing unique endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources in any given area of operation. However, the screening facility would originally locate within a previously disturbed open-cut pit that is normally used for such activities. Due to the seasonal and portable nature of the operations, the relatively small size of

the facility, and the fact that the area where the facility would originally operate has been used for such activities, any impacts to unique endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources would be minor.

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

The proposed project would require only small quantities of water and air for proper operation due to the relatively small size of the facility and conditions that would be placed in Permit #3270-00. Small amounts of water would be used for dust control on the surrounding roadways and the associated job site. In addition, as described in Section 7.F. of this EA, air emissions generated from the facility would have minor impacts on air quality in the immediate and surrounding area. Overall, the demands on the environmental resource of water, air, and energy would be minor due to the seasonal nature of the operation and the relatively small size of the facility.

I. Historical and Archaeological Sites

The proposed facility would increase emissions in the area where the screening plant would operate, which could result in minor impacts to existing historical and archaeological sites in the area. In general, screening operations typically locate within a previously disturbed open-cut pit that is normally used for such activities. According to the Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), there would be a low likelihood of disturbance to any known archaeological or historical site given any previous industrial disturbance in the area of operation. Therefore, it is unlikely that the facility will have an adverse affect on any known historic or archaeological site. However, if the facility locates within an area with no previous industrial disturbance, it is recommended that Sandon conduct a reconnaissance survey prior to operation at the site. Given the seasonal and portable nature of the operations, the relatively small size of the facility, and the fact that the areas where the facility would typically operate have been used for such operations, the chance of impacting any historical and archaeological sites would be minor.

J. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The proposed project would cause minor effects on the physical and biological aspects of the human environment because the project would generate emissions of particulate matter and PM₁₀. Conditions that would be placed in Permit #3270-00 would ensure that no air quality impacts, other than minor air quality impacts, would occur. Noise impacts would be minor due to the seasonal and portable nature of the operation, and the relatively small size of the facility. Impacts from noise would be seasonal and temporary because the screening facility would be permitted as a portable source so the facility would typically move to other locations. Limitations would be established in Permit #3270-00 to minimize air pollution.

There is potential for other operations to locate at the same site that the screening facility would use. However, any operations would have to apply for and receive the appropriate permits from the Department prior to operation. These permits would address the environmental impacts associated with the operations at the proposed site. The screening facility would be limited by Permit #3270-00 to total emissions of 250 tons per year or less from non-fugitive emissions sources at any given site. Overall, any impacts to the physical and biological environment would be minor.

8. 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 following comments have been prepared by the Department.

A. Social Structures and Mores

The proposed facility would not cause any disruption to native or traditional lifestyles or communities (social structures and mores) because the proposed facility would typically locate within a previously disturbed open-cut pit. The predominant use of the areas of operation would not change as a result of issuing Permit #3270-00.

B. Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity

The proposed facility would not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of any given area of operation because the facility would typically locate within a previously disturbed open-cut pit. The predominant use of the area of operation would not change as a result of issuing Permit #3270-00.

C. Local and State Tax Base and Tax Revenue

The proposed facility would have minor, if any, impacts on local and state tax base and tax revenue because the facility would be a temporary and seasonal source and no additional full time or permanent employees would be expected to be hired as a result of issuing Permit #3270-00. In addition, any revenue created by the proposed project would be widespread and would be for a relatively short time period due to the temporary and seasonal nature of the facility.

D. Agricultural or Industrial Production

The proposed facility would typically locate in a previously disturbed industrial area used for such operations. Therefore, the Department would not expect that the screening facility would affect or displace any agricultural land or production. Further, the screening facility would be small by industrial standards and would have only minor impacts on any local industrial production. Overall, any impacts to agricultural or Industrial production would be minor.

E. Human Health

Permit #3270-00 would incorporate conditions to ensure that the proposed screening facility would be operated in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. These rules and regulations are designed to be protective of human health. As described in Section 7.F. of this EA, the Department determined that any impacts from deposition would be minor due to dispersion characteristics of pollutants and the atmosphere, and conditions that would be included in Permit #3270-00. Pollution controls and opacity limitations on the screening facility, associated equipment, and the surrounding operational area would minimize the air emissions from this facility. Therefore, any impacts to human health would be minor.

F. Access to and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities

The proposed facility would not affect any access to recreational and wilderness activities because the proposed project would typically take place in a previously disturbed industrial area used for such operations. In addition, the proposed project would have minor impacts on the quality of recreational activities because the noise and emissions generated by the facility would be relatively small. Overall, the proposed project would result in only minor impacts to access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

G. Quantity and Distribution of Employment

Given the relatively small size and temporary nature of the operation, the quantity and distribution of employment in the area would not be affected. No full time, permanent employees would be expected to be hired or discharged as a result of issuing Permit #3270-00. The proposed project would not result in any impact to the quantity and distribution of employment in the proposed area of operation.

H. Distribution of Population

Given the relatively small size and temporary nature of the operation and because the facility would typically locate within a previously disturbed open-cut pit, the proposed project would not disrupt the normal population distribution of the area. Further, the proposed project would not create new employment opportunities with Sandon or with any surrounding businesses, so a change in population distribution would not occur.

I. Demands for Government Services

Government services would be required for acquiring the appropriate permit for the proposed project and ensuring compliance with the permit that would be issued. However, the government services required for issuing the permit would be minor. In addition, the government services required to ensure compliance with the permit would be minimal. There could be an increase in vehicle traffic resulting from the proposed project; however, any demands on government services to regulate the traffic would be minor due to the relatively small size of the facility. Overall, the demands for government services would be minor.

J. Industrial and Commercial Activity

The proposed project would represent only a minor increase in the industrial activity in the area due to the relatively small size of the proposed facility. No additional industrial or commercial activity would result solely from the operation of the screening facility, but some of the product may be supplied to industrial and commercial sources. Any impacts to industrial and commercial activities in the area would be minor due to the relatively small size and seasonal nature of the screening facility.

K. Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals

The Department is not aware of any locally adopted environmental plans and goals that would be affected by issuing Permit #3270-00. The state standards would protect the proposed site and the environment surrounding the site.

L. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

Overall, impacts to the social and economic aspects of the human environment from this facility would be minor because new businesses would not be drawn to the area and permanent jobs would not be created or lost due to the proposed facility. Because no new employees would be hired due to the operation of the screening facility, there would be no economic impacts from new employees. In addition, any social and economic impacts would be minor and short-lived because of the relatively small size of the facility, and the seasonal and temporary nature of the operation.

Recommendation: No EIS is required.

Sandon submitted a complete permit application to operate a portable screening facility. Permit #3270-00 includes conditions and limitations to ensure the facility will operate in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. In addition, there are no significant impacts associated with this proposal.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: Montana Historical Society – State Historic Preservation Office, Natural Resource Information System – Montana Natural Heritage Program

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA: Department of Environmental Quality – Air and Waste management Bureau, Montana Historical Society – State Historic Preservation Office, Natural Resource Information System – Montana Natural Heritage Program

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