

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) intends to modify BNSF Railway Company's hazardous waste permit for its former tie-treating plant, located in Paradise, Montana. BNSF is requesting removal of two permitted storage tanks, changing the creosote product recovery method to an air-lift pump recovery system, and modifying the groundwater monitoring program. The hazardous waste permit is issued under Title 75, Chapter 10, Part 4, of the Montana Hazardous Waste Act. In accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act, an environmental assessment has been prepared for this permit modification. The environmental assessment documents all reasonable alternatives to DEQ's permitting actions and outlines the potential impacts to the human environment resulting from DEQ's permitting actions, and from reasonable alternatives.

This notice informs the public of the draft permit modification and the associated environmental assessment and invites public participation in the decision-making process. The public may submit written comments to DEQ during the public comment period, which extends from December 9, 2019, through January 28, 2020. Only the changes proposed in the permit modification are open for public comment. The draft permit modification and draft environmental assessment are available at:

- online: <http://www.deq.mt.gov/Public/publiccomment>,
- The Plains Public Library during their business hours, 108 W Railroad St., Plains, Montana, phone 406/826-3101, and
- DEQ, Metcalf Building, 1520 E 6th Avenue, Helena, Montana, phone 406-444-3490.

DEQ has also prepared a fact sheet describing the facility and proposed permit modification. The fact sheet will be available for review at the above locations.

During the public comment period, any interested person may request a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. If a public hearing is held, DEQ will provide notice of the date at least 30 days prior to the hearing.

Please address written comments to: Ann Kron, DEQ/WUTMB, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, or email to: DEQhazwaste@mt.gov. Interested persons may also call or email Ann Kron at 406-444-5824, akron@mt.gov for information.

Based on the comments received, DEQ will make a final decision to issue or deny the permit modification. Notice will be given to the applicant and each person who submitted written comments or requested a notice of the decision. The final permit modification decision will be effective 30 days after notice of the decision, unless a later date is specified. If no comments are received requesting a change in this draft permit modification, the final permit modification will become effective immediately upon issuance.

Dated December 6, 2019