

September 29, 2005

Dear Reader:

ES Stone and Structure, Inc. (ES Stone) of Belt, MT applied for an operating permit to quarry and collect building stone on February 6, 2004. They submitted a revised application on May 5, 2005. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a Draft Checklist Environmental Analysis (CEA) on July 12, 2005 evaluating the potential impacts from the quarry operations and asking for comments on the proposed quarries. The Draft CEA addressed issues and concerns raised during public involvement and from agency scoping. No comments were received on the Draft CEA.

The agencies have decided to approve the permit as proposed contingent on posting of the reclamation bond of \$104,550. Following are the approved permit conditions:

Permit Area: 1000 acres over the life-of-the permit

Permitted Disturbance: Currently, 107 acres out of a 174-acre permit area covering 8 quarry sites are permitted to be disturbed and unreclaimed at any one time during the life of the permit. This could change over time as new sites could be added through amendment or revisions after environmental analysis. Most of the 1000 acres will be disturbed over the life of the permit, but concurrent reclamation will limit the total of disturbed and unreclaimed acres at any one time.

Bond: \$104,550

Information on the ES Stone operating permit application can be obtained by writing or calling the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, c/o Patrick Plantenberg, P. O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, telephone (406) 444-4960; e-mail address pplantenberg@mt.gov.

Warren D. McCullough, Chief
Environmental Management Bureau

Date

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