

September 19, 2019

**RE: Final EA, Application for an Operating Permit, Ibex Quarry**

Dear Reader:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on August 6, 2019 and requested comments from the public. Ibex Quarry has filed an application with the Department of Environmental Quality for an operating permit under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act. The operating permit would authorize the quarrying of masonry stone on private land owned by Jerry Paul Overman, located on Eagle View Road, approximately 15 miles northwest of Noxon, MT (Section 17, T28N, R33W), in Sanders County.

The operation would mine a talus slope to produce masonry stone for home construction. Approximately 1,250 tons of rock material would be excavated annually. The permit area would cover about 20 acres with up to 15 acres to be disturbed. Approximately six to eight workers would be employed.

Comments were to be received by September 6, 2019. One comment was received from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The comment requested a commitment from the company to use bear proof solid waste and food containers.

The company response follows:

“We have never had a problem with bears; however, we have seen bears pass through the quarry. We have metal barrels with heavy lids and food waste type garbage is locked inside a building, which is the lunch room.”

DEQ considers the response to be adequate and no changes to the draft EA is required. Therefore, the draft EA is now accepted as the final EA.

Sincerely,



Herb Rolfes  
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