

To All Potential Applicant(s)

RE: Application Information Packet for Hard Rock Rock Products Operating Permit

Dear Applicant,

An operating permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Hard Rock Mining Section (HRM) is required for those that plan to mine and disturb more than five acres, as defined under the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act. Enclosed is an information packet.

Applications for an operating permit for a single rock products site or multiple sites can be submitted on this form, but the following restrictions must be met to qualify for a rock products operating permit:

- The operation must meet the rock products definition under MMRA (82-4-301 (29), MCA: (a) "Rock products" means decorative rock, building stone, riprap, mineral aggregates, and other minerals produced by typical quarrying activities or collected from or just below the ground surface that do not contain sulfides with the potential to produce acid, toxic, or otherwise pollutive solutions. (b) The term does not include talc, gypsum, limestone, metalliferous ores, gemstones, or materials extracted by underground mining);
- There would be no impact to any wetland, surface or groundwater and no operation with 100 feet of surface water or in groundwater;
- There would be no constructed impoundment or reservoirs used in the operation;
- There would be no potential to produce acid or other pollutive drainage from the pit;
- There would be no impact to threatened and endangered species;
- There would be no impact to significant historic or archaeological features; and
- The operation or operations would not cumulatively disturb more than 100 acres of the earth's surface.

If these requirements cannot be met, a non-rock products operating permit must be obtained and an individual operating permit would be required for each site. The information packet includes:

1. Operating Permit Application form
2. Rock Product Operating and Reclamation Plan Application form
3. Operating Permit Application Compliance Certification
4. Application process flow charts
5. Montana Hard Rock & Placer Mining Requirements
6. Additional permits or licenses that may be required
7. Hard Rock Mining fees list

Completed copies of the Operating Permit Application form and Rock Product Operating and Reclamation Plan Application form should be submitted via email to deqhardrock@mt.gov. Please mail a signed original copy of the Operating Permit Application form, plus the required application fee (checks made payable to "MT DEQ-HRM") to:

DEQ-HRM
Attn: Hard Rock Mining Supervisor
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

If you have questions, please contact Milie Olsen, Hard Rock Mining Section Supervisor at (406) 444-2461 or millie.olsen@mt.gov.