

How are emissions typically controlled?

- Dust from material handling operations can be controlled with water spray, fog spray, surfactant, covered screens and covered conveyors and particulate containment boots.
- Dust from haul roads can be controlled with water or chemical dust suppressants.
- PM, PM₁₀, NO_x, CO, and SO₂ from engines must meet EPA vehicle emission standards and nonroad diesel fuel limits.
- PM, PM₁₀, NO_x, and CO from asphalt plant hot mix dryers and drums can be controlled through good combustion practices, low-NO_x burners, and the use of particulate control devices such as baghouses.

If I have a concern or complaint, what can I do?

Call DEQ's Enforcement Staff at (406) 444-5328.

What other resources are available to the public?

A list of registered facilities can be found at <https://deq.mt.gov/air/resources>. Click on the Public Notification – Emission Source Location link to view all registered sources, with links to their application and to a map showing their location.



Frequently Asked Questions

About

Air Quality Impacts from Opencut Sites



Air Quality Bureau
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
<https://deq.mt.gov/air>

What typical equipment operates at opencut sites?

- Crushers
- Asphalt Plants
- Engines
- Screens
- Concrete Plants

(Note: the equipment described above is often portable and moves around the state to various sites.)

What are the main air quality pollutants from material handling operations?

Dust = particulate matter (PM) including particulate matter of less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) from:

- Crushers
- Hoppers
- Stockpiles
- Screens
- Silos
- Storage bins
- Conveyors
- Loadout systems
- Vehicles on roads

What are the main air quality pollutants from the diesel engines, asphalt plants, and concrete plants?

Nitrogen oxide (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and dust (PM including PM₁₀),

How does DEQ regulate air quality emissions from opencut operations?

- A registration program regulates the majority of air quality emissions sources at opencut sites through operating limitations (ARM 17.8, Subchapter 18).
- A Montana Air Quality Permit is required for larger operations unable to operate below the registration program limits. (ARM 17.8, Subchapter 7).

What are the registration program requirements?

- Registered facilities must notify DEQ at least 15 days before a facility begins operation at any new location.
- Registered facilities are limited to the following rolling 12-month operational limits:
 - Asphalt batch mix plants are limited to 324,000 tons;
 - Asphalt drum mix plants are limited to 996,000 tons;
 - Concrete batch plants are limited to 1,000,000 cubic yards;
 - Screening and crushing operations are limited to 8,000,000 tons; and
 - Engines may not exceed 6,000,000 horsepower-hours (hp-hr), or 3,500,000 hp-hr if an asphalt plant is onsite.

What are the registration program emission limits?

- Visible emissions shall not exceed 10% opacity averaged over 6 minutes.
 - Certain sources an initial visibility performance test shall be conducted within 180 days of initial startup.
- Each asphalt batch mix or asphalt drum mix plant shall emit no more than 0.04 grains per dry standard cubic feet (gr/dscf).
 - Usually, a baghouse is used to control emissions. Monitoring the pressure drop across the baghouse as well as monitoring the inlet and outlet exhaust temperatures is used to demonstrate compliance.
 - Initial performance tests demonstrating compliance with the above limit are within 180 days of the initial startup.
 - Additional testing may be requested by DEQ.
- Roads shall be treated with water or chemical dust suppressants to control vehicle dust.
- A containment boot is required for concrete batch plant load-outs.