

Huxtable Quarry Mineral Materials Project Scoping Statement

Description of Proposed Project

Mr. Jim Huxtable, of Douglas, Wyoming, has notified the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Casper Field Office, of his proposal to develop a nonmetallic limestone rock quarry. The proposed quarry is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 33, T.32 N., R.72W. The total project area encompasses a 40 acre portion. The surface owner is Mr. Huxtable and the minerals are owned by the United States. The proposed 40 acre development is located in a drainage tributary of Bed Tick Creek within a secluded canyon of Mr. Huxtable's property. Mr. Huxtable plans to develop the limestone resources and sell the material to contractors for municipal, private, state and federal construction projects in the region. The initial development would be for 10 acres of the original 40 acres delineated to mine, under a 200,000 cubic yard mineral material sale.

Before quarrying operations begin, improvements to a 2-mile long access road on Mr. Huxtable's property would be initiated. These improvements are required to facilitate equipment access to the project area and transportation of quarried material. All road improvements and construction activities would be conducted in accordance with BLM road standards.

Activities at the Huxtable Quarry would include top soil salvage, excavation, and some infrequent blasting of material. Processing of the material will occur on-site using portable crushers and screening units to segregate the product according to construction specifications. The final product would then be transported off-site to construction projects in the surrounding region. No permanent facilities would be constructed at the quarry site.

The construction equipment will most likely include pickups, bulldozers, motor graders, crushers, screening units, water trucks, fuel trucks, front-end loaders, rock drilling equipment, excavators, and semi-trucks.

National Environmental Policy Act

On reviewing the Huxtable Quarry construction proposal, the BLM has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to analyze the effects of the proposed action. The impact analysis presented in the EA will allow for one of two decisions to be made by the BLM Field Manager. The first is whether to sign a Decision Record (DR) with the Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which would allow the mineral material sale to proceed. The second decision is to identify whether the project, as proposed, would result in significant impacts and would require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

One element of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is scoping. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process:

- To identify reasonable development alternatives to be considered in the environmental document.
- To identify environmental/socioeconomic issues of concern related to the proposed project.
- To determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable government agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

The following issues and concerns have been identified to date. The list is a starting point for public input and a means of identifying the resource disciplines needed to conduct the analysis:

- Potential impacts to wildlife habitats within the analysis area.
- Increased traffic and associated impacts on existing county, state, and BLM roads and highways.
- Social and Economic impacts to local communities.
- Impacts to surface and groundwater resources.
- Visual Impacts outside of the project area.
- Impacts from air emissions and noise from quarrying operations.
- Reclamation of disturbed areas.

Interdisciplinary Team

An interdisciplinary team (IDT) made up of the following specialists have been identified based on the current understanding of issues, concerns, and opportunities and established objectives from the previous analysis:

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| • Air Quality Specialist | • Public Affairs Specialist |
| • Archaeologist | • Range Management Specialist |
| • Geologist | • Soil Scientist |
| • Hydrologist | • Wildlife Biologist |
| • Paleontologist | • Project Manager. |

Timing Needs or Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, the alternatives to the proposed action, the other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure the completeness of the analysis process.

An open house will be held to discuss the Huxtable Quarry. The meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 20, 2004 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**, at the Best Western Douglas Inn in Douglas, Wyoming.

There will be a brief presentation at the meeting followed by any questions regarding the proposed project. There will also be an opportunity to submit any issues or concerns on the proposal.

Your comments are due by **Tuesday, May 4, 2004**. Please submit your comments to:

Robert G. Specht, Project Manager
 Address: Bureau of Land Management
 Casper Field Office
 2987 Prospector Dr.
 Casper, WY 82604
 Email: casper_wymail@blm.gov (Please refer to the Huxtable Quarry in your email response.)

Public Participation

The following agencies, companies, individuals and organizations have been identified as having a potential interest in the project and will receive a copy of this scoping statement. A press release is scheduled to be release concurrently with this scoping notice, requesting input from the general public on the project.

Converse County Commissioners	Douglas Chamber of Commerce
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Converse County Road and Bridge	City of Douglas
Converse County Library	City Administrator, Bobbe Fitzhugh
Converse County Planning Commission	Douglas Planning Commission
Wyoming State Planning Office	Mayor, Sherri Mullinnix
Wyoming Game and Fish	Land Quality Division, WYDEQ
Worthington, Lenhart and Carpenter, Inc.	Mr. & Mrs. Darren Fink
Mr. Jim Huxtable	Mr. & Mrs. Rick Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Baker	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Sanford
Mrs. Mary Julie Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Headly
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Gibson	State Geological Survey
Mr. & Mrs. Art Hageman	State Historic Preservation Office
Water Quality Division, WYDEQ	Air Quality Division, WYDEQ
WY Department of Agriculture	Office of State Lands & Investments

Casper Field Office