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Ravalli County Commissioners

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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-19-03
February 11, 2019

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) intention to issue a General Permit as described in this notice. This permit is issued by the DEQ under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on DEQ's website www.deq.mt.gov

APPLICANT INFORMATION

PERMIT/CATEGORY: General Permit; Portable Suction Dredging
GEOGRAPHIC REGION: Statewide
FACILITIES: Portable Recreational Suction Dredge Operations
RECEIVING WATERS: State Surface Water
PERMIT NUMBER: MTG370000

The renewal of this General Permit will continue to provide statewide general permit coverage for owners/operators of portable recreational suction dredging operations that discharge to state waters. The renewal is for a five-year cycle.

The General Permit allows portable recreational suction dredge operations that meet effluent limits and other conditions specified in the permit to discharge to state waters. This General Permit is applicable to portable recreational suction dredge operations with an intake diameter size of four (4) inches or less. The discharge from suction dredges permitted under the SDGP consists only of stream water and bed material.

The General Permit prohibits the suction dredge owner/operator from causing a visible increase in turbidity at the end of the mixing zone, causing a visible oil film, or adding any chemicals to the operation. In addition, the SDGP includes Best Management Practices that are designed to protect the integrity of the stream and stream bank.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 18, 2019. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Protection Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 18, 2019 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail DEQ at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov

A public hearing will be held on the draft general permit, fact sheet, environmental assessment, and DEQ's tentative determination on March 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in DEQ's Lee Metcalf Building, Room 111 at 1520 E. Sixth Ave, Helena, MT.

The State of Montana makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in state government. Persons needing an accommodation must notify Joanna McLaughlin no later than March 11, 2019, to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. You can call Joanna at 444-5341 or write to the address noted to make your request known.

DEQ will respond to all significant comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-5546 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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