



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Miles City Field Office
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, Montana 59301-0940
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/mcfo/>

In Reply To:

3809
MTM 77811

September 8, 2004

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management's Miles City Field Office (BLM MCFO) and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have jointly prepared a detailed Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze potential impacts of a proposed bentonite mine plan amendment. We are seeking public review and comment on the EA and proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The American Colloid Company has submitted a proposal to the BLM Miles City Field Office and the Montana DEQ to amend its mine plan for bentonite mining near Alzada in Carter County, Montana. The amendment would add 1,487 acres to the permit, of which 583.8 acres are federal lands administered by the BLM and 903.2 acres are private lands. According to the proposal, a total of 686 acres would be disturbed by mining, 205 acres of federal surface and 481 acres of privately owned surface.

The Environmental Assessment and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact for American Colloid Company's proposal are presented for your review and comment.

We welcome your comments on our analysis and the unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact. The BLM Miles City Field Office and DEQ will accept comments on the EA for a thirty-day time period ending on October 13, 2004. Comments can be mailed to Dan Benoit, Solid Minerals Geologist, BLM Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, Montana 59301 or emailed to dbenoit@mt.blm.gov.

To obtain a copy of the EA, please contact Dan Benoit at the above phone number or address, or you may view and download an electronic version at our BLM Miles City Field Office website at <http://www.mt.blm.gov/mcfo/index.html>.

For further information, contact Dan Benoit at the BLM Miles City Field Office (406) 233-3646, or Jo Stephen at the Montana DEQ Billings office at (406) 247-4435.

Sincerely,

Acting Assistant Manager
Division of Mineral Resources