Return to Index

PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

The EPA plans to issue a new air permit for a crushed aggregate production plant in Pocatello, Idaho

Public comment period ends November 28, 2022

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comment on the proposed issuance of a draft synthetic minor source Clean Air Act (CAA) permit for J.K. Merrill and Sons, Inc. (J.K. Merrill) in Pocatello, Idaho on the Fort Hall Reservation. Because the facility is located within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Hall Reservation and because the Fort Hall Tribe does not have an EPA-approved permitting program, EPA is the CAA permit-issuing authority on the Reservation.

The J.K. Merrill facility is a crushed aggregate production plant located in Pocatello, Idaho. J.K. Merrill operates an existing rock crushing operation located at the Merrill Pit, 1850 Tank Farm Road, northwest of Pocatello, Idaho, within the boundaries of the Fort Hall Reservation. The facility produces construction grade sand and gravel from rock quarried on site and comprises two plants. The crusher plant processes rock into smaller and smaller pieces. The wash plant washes and screens wet materials. The crusher plant and wash plant are each powered by a separate diesel-fired generator, which emits CO, NOx, and other combustion byproducts. Other equipment involved in materials processing and transfer emit particulate matter.

At maximum operation, the facility has the potential to emit more than 100 tons per year of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), making it a major source of air pollution subject to the Title V permitting program. J.K. Merrill has applied for a permit that limits emissions to below Title V thresholds. As requested by J.K. Merrill, the synthetic minor source permit limits NOx annual emissions to less than 100. As a result of taking these synthetic minor source limits, the facility will not be subject to the Title V air operating permit program. In addition, the facility's diesel-fired generators are subject to NESHAP Subpart ZZZZ applicable to area (minor) sources of HAP.

How can I get more information? You can access, download and view an electronic copy of the administrative record, including the draft permit, technical support document, permit application, and all supporting material from the EPA's web site at https://www.epa.gov/publicnotices/notices-search/location/Idaho. All data submitted by the applicant is available as part of the administrative record. You can also request a physical copy of the administrative record or individual documents in the record by contacting EPA's Rizwan Syed at (206) 553-6345 or syed.rizwan@epa.gov. You can also contact J.K. Merrill for more information: Lloyd G. Merrill, (208) 237-6550, WeCrushRock@gmail.com.

How do I comment on the permit actions? Any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit actions, including the terms of the draft synthetic minor source permit, to EPA at r10_air_permits@epa.gov. Include "Comments on Draft Permit for J.K. Merrill and Sons, Inc." in the subject line of the email. If you are unable to submit comments via email, please call Rizwan Syed at (206) 553-6345. If you believe that any condition of the draft permit is inappropriate, you must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues with supporting arguments by submitting your written comments on or before the end of the comment period. Any documents supporting your comments must be included in full and may not be incorporated by reference, unless they are already part of the administrative record for the draft permit or consist of tribal, state or federal statutes or regulations or other generally available

referenced materials. EPA will consider all comments received in making a final decision on the permit actions. EPA will prepare a statement of reasons for changes made to the draft permit and responses to comments received and will send them, along with the final permit, to everyone who comments on the draft permit. **All written comments must be received by EPA on or before November 28, 2022.**

Will there be a public hearing? You can request a public hearing on the draft permit actions. Requests for a hearing must be received in writing by EPA at r10_air_permits@epa.gov on or before the end of the comment period and contain your reasons for requesting a hearing. Include "Comments on Draft Permit for J.K. Merrill and Sons, Inc." in the subject line of the email. If you are unable to submit your request via email, please call Rizwan Syed at (206) 553-6345. If a public hearing is held, the comment period will be extended through the date of the public hearing.

Would you like to be on our mailing list? If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive future information about permits, please sign up at https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/forms/mailing-list-proposed-clean-air-act-permit-actions-epa-region-10.

For people with disabilities: Please contact the EPA contact listed above before the end of the comment period if you have any special requests for reasonable accommodations. For TTY users: please call the Federal Relay Service at 1 (800) 877-8339.

Other important information: All comments will be included in the administrative record without change and will be available to the public, including any personal information provided, unless the comments include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information the disclosure of which is restricted by statute. Information that is considered to be CBI or otherwise protected should be clearly identified as such and should be submitted **ONLY** through a non-electronic delivery method; such information should not be submitted through email. Contact Rizwan Syed at (206) 553-6345 or syed.rizwan@epa.gov for additional submittal information.

An email or postal address must be provided with comments if the commenter wishes to receive direct notification of the EPA's final decision following the public comment period.