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October 3, 2023

Ravalli County Commissioners

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**Ravalli County Board of Commissioners**

215 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite A  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Re: Granite Creek Gravel Pit Opencut Mining Permit Application – Public Notice Gravel Pit

Dear Recipient:

WGM Group (WGM) is submitting this letter on behalf of Roger Mikesell, as official Public Notification for an Opencut Mining Permit for the Granite Creek Gravel Pit located at 877 Eight Mile Creek Road, approximately five- and one-half miles east of the intersection of US Highway 93 and State Highway 203 in Florence, Ravalli County, Montana. Notices will be posted near the entrance to the mining site.

The Granite Creek Gravel Pit is a continuing mine with a permit area of 17.9 acres. Where available, the estimated volumes of topsoil, overburden, and gravel to be removed are 19,242 cubic yards, 4,813 cubic yards and 250,000 cubic yards, respectively. The topsoil and overburden will be stripped, stockpiled, and saved for reclamation, while the gravel will be sold commercially. The attached location map shows the access to facilities during mining activities. The initial stage of mining is anticipated to last for a maximum of 20 years, beginning upon permit approval. The active reclamation process for the initial stage is expected to be completed by Fall of 2043.

**Roger Mikesell** is the Operator and the Landowner listed in the Opencut Mining Permit Application. The legal description of the mining site is the **Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 10, Township 10 North, Range 19 West, Ravalli County, Montana.**

Contact information is listed below:

SITE OPERATOR:  
Roger Mikesell  
877 Eight Mile Creek Road  
Florence, MT 59833  
(406) 369-2500

The Area Map referenced above identifies the location of the Granite Creek Gravel Pit. If you would like to request a public meeting in regard to the opencut permit application for Granite Creek Gravel Pit please contact the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Opencut Mining Program at 406-444-4970. If you have any questions, or if you would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience at 406-728-4611 or [msmith@wgmgroup.com](mailto:msmith@wgmgroup.com).

Granite Creek Gravel Pit Opencut Mining Permit Application  
October 3, 2023  
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,  
WGM Group, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Michael J. Smith, PE**  
Environmental Project Engineer

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JFW:lja

Encl: Location Area Map, Notice of Proposed OC Operation

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED OPENCUT OPERATION

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is accepting public comments on the following proposed Opencut operation in your area:

### DEQ SECTION

**Operator:** Roger Mikesell      **Site:** Granite Creek      **County:** Ravalli      **Opencut #:** 3533

**Public Comment Period:** Throughout the permitting process.

### SURFACE LANDOWNER SECTION

1. When determining the number of Occupied Dwelling Units\* eligible to request a public meeting:
  - a. Multiple parties owning the same parcel of land with an Occupied Dwelling Unit are counted as one vote.
  - b. A party owning multiple parcels of land, each with an Occupied Dwelling Unit, gets one vote per parcel. A separate form for each parcel that meets the above conditions must be submitted in order for a landowner to cast a vote for each parcel containing an Occupied Dwelling Unit.
  - c. The Opencut Act makes it the Operator's sole responsibility to conduct public notice. **Contact the Operator with any questions related to public notice.**
2. A public meeting is not possible for this site unless requested by the Operator.
  - a. The minimum number of ODUs to have a possibility of a public meeting requested by landowners is 10.
  - b. The number of ODUs associated with this site is 1.
  - c. Public Comment is encouraged. Please refer to the instructions below on how to submit your comment.

**Note:** Landowners can submit written comments via the website at <https://deq.mt.gov/Mining/programs/opencut>; or email to [DEQOpencut@mt.gov](mailto:DEQOpencut@mt.gov) (be sure to reference the above Operator Name, Site Name and Opencut # in the subject line).

The following information applies to requests for a public meeting:

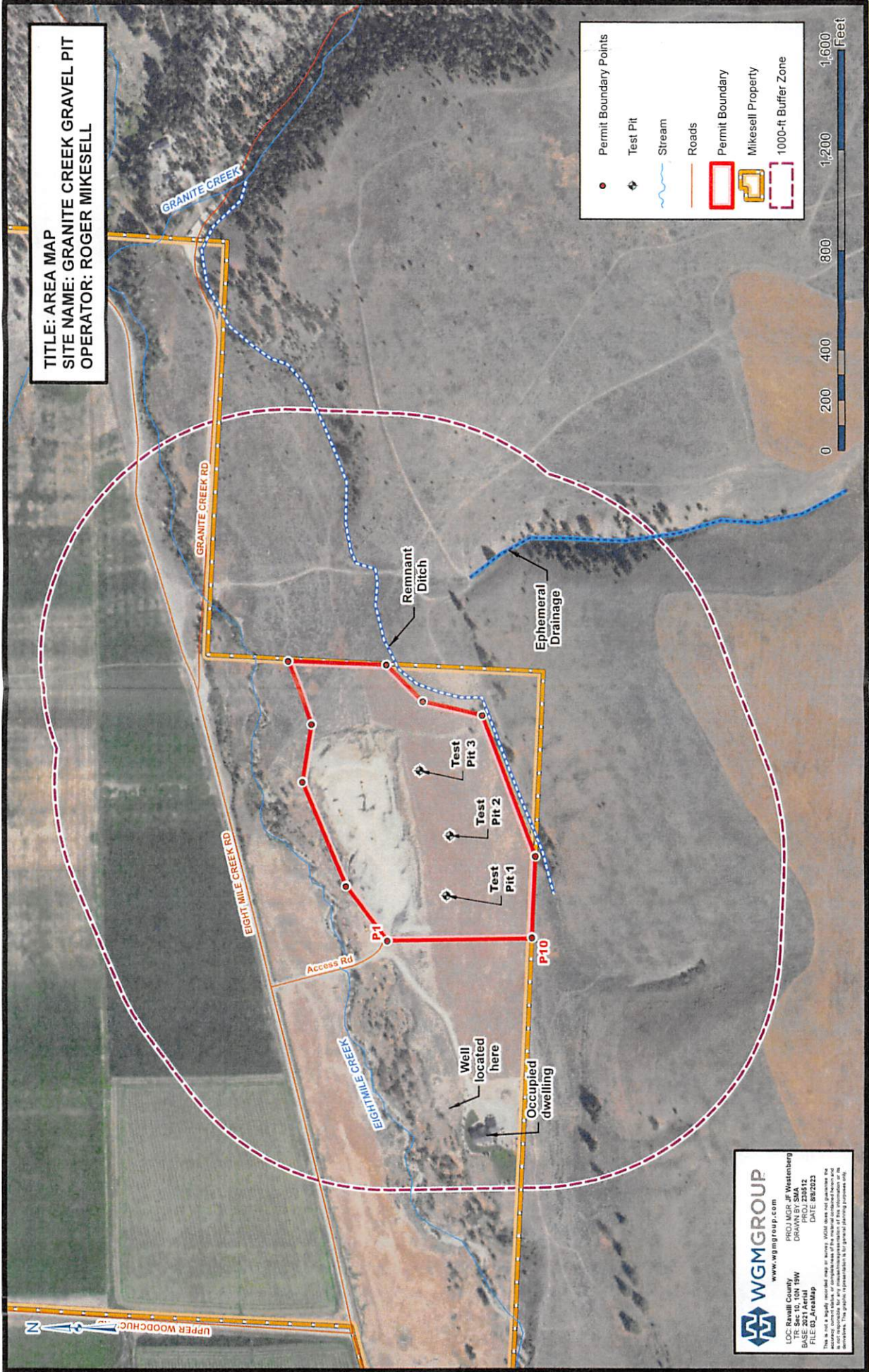
- A copy of the application for the proposed operation can be viewed at <http://deq.mt.gov/mining/programs/opencut>. If additional information about the proposed operation is needed, please contact the operator at the address or phone number listed in the public notice provided to you by the operator.
- In accordance with MCA 82-4-432(9), the DEQ must hold a public meeting in the area of the proposed operation if requested by the applicant, or at least 51% of the property owners or 10 real property owners on which Occupied Dwelling Units exist, whichever is greater.
- Prior to holding a public meeting, DEQ will send notice of the meeting by first-class mail to property owners of land located within one-half mile of the boundary of the proposed permit area.
- The public meeting will be held within 30 days of the closing date of the public meeting request period indicated above.

\* "Occupied Dwelling Unit" means a structure with permanent water and sewer facilities that is used as a home, residence, or sleeping place by at least one person who maintains a household that is lived in as a primary residence.

TITLE: AREA MAP  
 SITE NAME: GRANITE CREEK GRAVEL PIT  
 OPERATOR: ROGER MIKESELL

Legend:

- Permit Boundary Points
- ⬮ Test Pit
- ~ Stream
- Roads
- ▭ Permit Boundary
- ▭ Mikesell Property
- ▭ 1000-ft Buffer Zone



**WGMGROUP**  
 www.wmggroup.com

LOC: Ravalli County  
 PROJ: MGP of Western  
 TR: Sec 10, 10N 15W  
 DRAWN BY: SMA  
 BASE: 2021 Aerial  
 FILE: 02\_ArealMap  
 DATE: 08/2023

This is not a legal description. It is a map of the site and is not intended to be used as a legal description. It is not intended to be used as a legal description. It is not intended to be used as a legal description.

