Residents question permitting process

The Friends of the Jocko has hired a law firm in Missoula, Fergusson and Coppes PPLC. The friends are preparing for legal action against the DEQ if the mine is permitted.

Neighbors seek more input

Neighborhood outreach groups of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have expressed concern that the mine would cause significant impacts, it would prompt an EIS—which has opportunities for public comment, according to prior reporting by Daily Inter Lake.

Residents question permitting process

“Governments and contractors need to have a source of gravel,” Decker said. In the end, the DEQ will decide whether or not to approve the permit. They also need to ensure that the public is taken into account when making decisions about development. The DEQ emphasizes that the permitting process is ongoing, leaving room for public comment.

Proposed open-pit gravel mine controversial among Arlee residents

The 20-year resident of the area founded Friends of the Jocko to oppose the large open-pit mine proposed outside of Arlee. The tribe has asked for the full MEPA process to be implemented, as they noted that the DEQ found deficiencies in Riverside’s permit that were of concern. If the DEQ found the operation would cause significant impacts, it would prompt an EIS—which has opportunities for public comment, according to prior reporting by Daily Inter Lake.

Proposed open-pit mine

The proposed open-pit mine would allow the permit holder to remove 12 feet of topsoil on 157 acres—almost a half-mile long on each side. The mine would cause significant impacts, it would prompt an EIS—which has opportunities for public comment, according to prior reporting by Daily Inter Lake.

Neighbors seek more input

Decker was quick to note that Lake County is not involved in the permitting process. While the DEQ is responsible for the permit, Decker said, “We are all in this together. We need to work together to ensure that the public is taken into account when making decisions about development.”

Residents question permitting process

Decker said pursuing legal action isn’t a certainty and isn’t her intended outcome, but she has noticed increased interest in the project. There’s been more development in the area since the last permitting process, and there are new concerns about water and air quality.

Neighbors seek more input

“Governments and contractors need to have a source of gravel,” Decker said. In the end, the DEQ will decide whether or not to approve the permit. They also need to ensure that the public is taken into account when making decisions about development. The DEQ emphasizes that the permitting process is ongoing, leaving room for public comment.