Riverside Contracting, which would be based in a building that housed a gravel pit in 1985, sought a permit to build an asphalt plant on a site that is owned by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). The permit applicant versus the CSKT is the crux of the issue. The CSKT has opposed the plant’s construction, demanding that the company be required to obtain a license and cease operations if the company breaches the terms of its contract with the tribe.

In November 2022, DEQ approved the plan for an asphalt plant, even though the state agency had previously stated that the company would have to stop operating if the Lincoln County Coal Ash Plant was opened. DEQ’s decision came after the company argued that the plant could be converted to a gravel pit during its construction phase, but this case is now in court. The State of Montana has also filed a lawsuit against the company, claiming that it was not operating in compliance with the tribe’s agreement.

Friends of the Jocko, a nonprofit organization, has been advocating for the DEQ to cease operations and has been encouraging the public to voice their concerns. Friends of the Jocko has submitted public comments on the plan, which have been published on its website. The nonprofit is seeking to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process.

“When a project that recklessly affects water, air, wildlife, birds, fish and communities is proposed, there should be a public hearing and conduct an environmental analysis of the potential impact of this project,” said Hannah Coefield, the executive director of Friends of the Jocko. “The DEQ’s approval of this project is a significant step in the wrong direction.”

The DEQ’s decision to approve the plan has been met with opposition from the community. The nonprofit is seeking to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process. Friends of the Jocko has submitted public comments on the plan, which have been published on its website. The nonprofit is seeking to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process.

“All along, it's been disappointing that the Department of Environmental Quality has not responded to public input on the proposals,” said Hannah Coefield, the executive director of Friends of the Jocko. “The DEQ's approval of this project is a significant step in the wrong direction.”

Friends of the Jocko is encouraging the public to voice their concerns and to submit comments on the plan. The nonprofit is seeking to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process. Friends of the Jocko has submitted public comments on the plan, which have been published on its website. The nonprofit is seeking to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process.

“DEQ has not responded to many of our concerns, and the CSKT has been trying to set up a legal fight with the company,” said Hannah Coefield, the executive director of Friends of the Jocko. “We’re kind of leading this fight because we got permission from the tribe to represent their interests.”

The CSKT has been trying to set up a legal fight with the company, and the tribe is working to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process. Friends of the Jocko has submitted public comments on the plan, which have been published on its website. The nonprofit is seeking to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process.

“I think that it's inappropriate that a non-tribal enterprise sets up here on the CSKT’s land. We’re glad that the tribe has been holding us accountable,” said Hannah Coefield, the executive director of Friends of the Jocko. “We’re glad that the tribe has been holding us accountable.”

The tribe has been working to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process. Friends of the Jocko has submitted public comments on the plan, which have been published on its website. The nonprofit is seeking to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process.

However, the company has continued to pursue the project, and DEQ has approved the plan. Friends of the Jocko is encouraging the public to voice their concerns and to submit comments on the plan. The nonprofit is seeking to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process. Friends of the Jocko has submitted public comments on the plan, which have been published on its website. The nonprofit is seeking to ensure that the public has a voice in the decision-making process.