



PRESS RELEASE

April 3, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Missoula County Dust Abatement Program

The Missoula County Public Works Department invites the public to participate in their dust abatement program. The Department submitted 77 miles of gravel road for dust abatement to area contractors for bid this week, but would like that number to increase. "Increasing the mileage in the bid request could bring the final bid down," says Assistant Public Works Director Tim Elsea. Participating in the program gives residents the opportunity to access Missoula County's price for the product used in dust abatement. Missoula County residents were originally given a March 15 deadline to submit stretches of county-owned gravel road in front of their homes for inclusion in the bid packet, but County Commissioners and Department Officials want to encourage greater participation.

Missoula County abates dust on gravel roads with magnesium chloride, an environmentally friendly, water soluble salt. Magnesium chloride is a hygroscopic material, meaning it pulls humidity from the air over the course of the season ensuring the treatment is economically sustainable. The material also contributes to the long-term maintenance of the road by holding the roads properties together, prolonging its durability.

Missoula County Commissioners began funding the dust abatement program in 2006 when 31 miles of gravel roads in the county were treated. This year 77 of the County's 250 maintained miles of gravel road are budgeted for dust abatement. The Public Works Department considers traffic, maintenance issues, and the road's proximity to the non-attainment zone for air quality when determining its suitability for dust abatement measures. This year, the Department requested public input and participation at community council meetings as well. Beginning in January, Tim Elsea traveled around the county attending the meetings and listening to the public's input. The list of roads slated for dust abatement measures can be found at the Public Works Department website <http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/road>.

Missoula County citizens who live along sections of county road not listed on the website may opt to pay for magnesium chloride along their property and may join

with neighbors in their requests. If selected, residents would pay the same rate as the County for the magnesium chloride used. Interested property owners may access the application form at the Public Works Department website or contact the Department at 258-4753. Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2009.

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