Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

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Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD)

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Monthly Categorial Exclusions and Adoption Decision Notices

December 2022

Prepared By:
Samantha Treu, CARDD MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Anaconda-Deer Lodge Water Distribution System Improvements
June 2022
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
46.138, -112.986
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

PURPOSE AND NEED

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (ACDL) is a consolidated city-county government with a population of 9,491. The water distribution system is aging and in need of an upgrade. The water mains are susceptible to breaks due to their deteriorating condition. The goal of the project is to provide safe and reliable drinking water to the area while reducing the probability of a pipe failure. ACDL proposes to replace the 50+ year old deteriorating water mains within the northwest area of Anaconda with new polyvinyl chloride (PVC) mains, which include replacing services from the main to individual curb-stops. The project also includes replacing old fire hydrants to service the area.

The Anaconda Water Distribution System Improvements Project will address the deficiencies in the water distribution system with the replacement of deteriorating water mains in the distribution network.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Water Distribution Storage Improvements.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

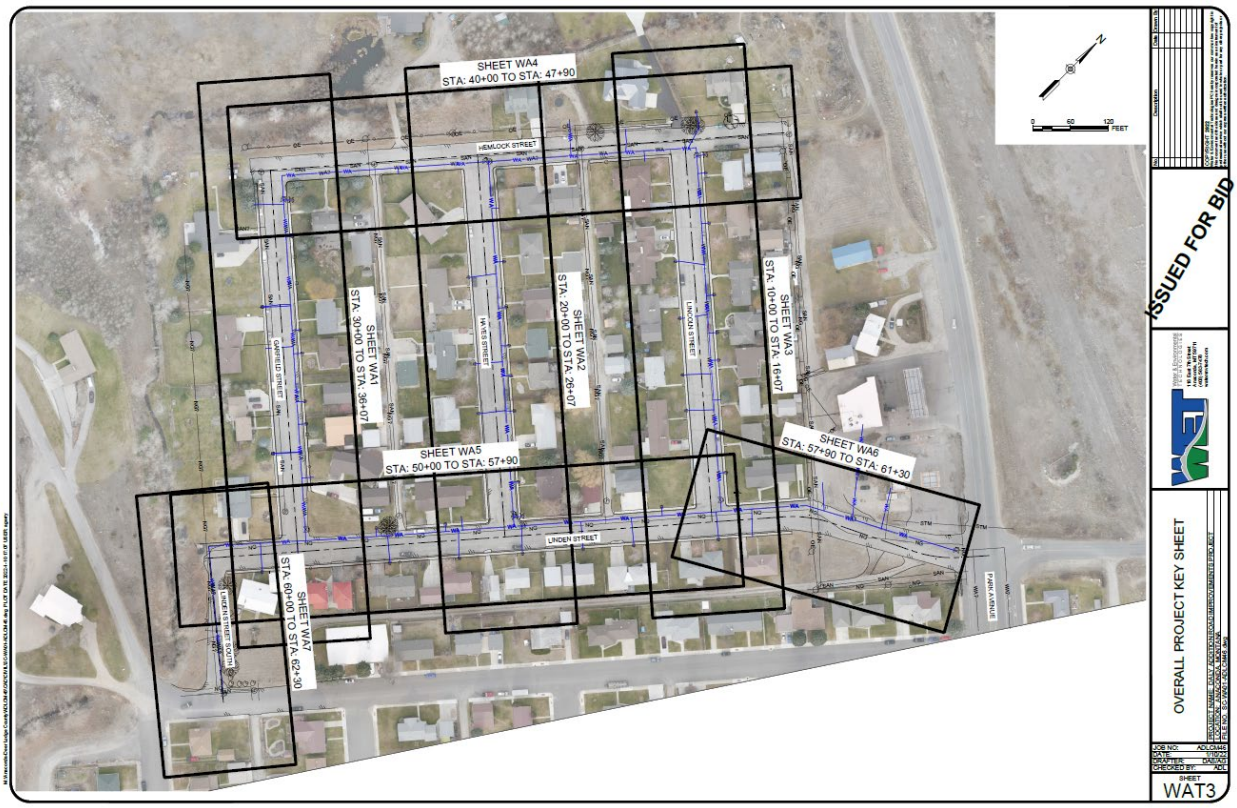
☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. - Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Katherine Certalic **Title:** ARPA Program Specialist **Date:** 12/20/22 **Email:** kcertalic@mt.gov

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman **Title:** Bureau Chief
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 07ZEC22EC836461...	**Date**: 12/29/2022 | 2:55:10 PM MST



Environmental Checklist Instructions

Purpose of This Document:

All applicants must consider the potential environmental impacts of their projects. Consideration of these impacts on the location, design, or construction actions may help avoid expensive mitigation or construction costs. A project will not be eligible for funding if it results in significant adverse impact after mitigation.

DNRC requires compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) per state law and associated DNRC Administrative Rules (ARM 36.2.523). MEPA requires state agencies to prepare a detailed statement on any project, program, or activity directly undertaken by the agency; a project or activity supported through a contract, grant, subsidy, loan or other form of funding assistance from the agency; and a project or activity involving the issuance of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use or permission by the agency (MCA Title 75, Chapter 1). All project applications will be subject to MEPA review followed by a public scoping process. DNRC will post the drafted MEPA decision for public comment at a minimum of two weeks (dependent on level of environmental impact). The MEPA document will then require a final decision by DNRC once funds are awarded.

Please complete the Environmental Checklist below as the information provided will be subject to a MEPA assessment by DNRC. If an Environmental Assessment has already been completed for the proposed project, please attach it to the application in place of this evaluation.

Instructions:

Complete the Environmental Checklist on the following pages after the instructions below. DNRC retains the ultimate decision-making authority on all MEPA decisions. If DNRC determines this section to be incomplete, additional information will be required before consideration for funding.

Example		
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil lump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Current Conditions:* *Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:*

1. **Impact Code:** In the first column, identify the impact that the preferred alternative will have on each resource (e.g. 1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints) in the project area. Select from the following impact codes:
   - *No Impact*: No impact to the resource is anticipated or this is not applicable to this project.
   - *Beneficial*: Potentially beneficial impact to the resource.
   - *Adverse*: Potentially adverse impact to the resource.

   Please note that a resource may have more than one impact. Identify all possible impacts to the resource in the space provided. For example, the preferred alternative may have a short-term direct negative impact and a long-term direct and indirect positive impact on the resource. Check all boxes that apply and use the space provided in the final column "Explanation of Impact to Resource" to explain.

Example		
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil lump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Current Conditions:* *Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:*

2. **Impact Type:** In the second column, identify the type(s) of impact to the resource from the preferred alternative. (Impacts may be direct, indirect or cumulative).
   - *Direct impacts*: Occur at the same time and place as the proposed project.
   - *Indirect or secondary impacts*: Occur at a different location or later time than the proposed project.
   - *Cumulative impacts*: Collective impacts on the environment when considered in conjunction with other past, present, and future actions related to the proposed project. Cumulative impact analysis includes a review of all state and nonstate activities that have occurred, are occurring, or may occur that have impacted or may impact the same resource as the proposed project.

   Just as above, please note that a resource may have more than one impact. Identify all possible impacts to the resource in the space provided. For example, the preferred alternative may have a short-term direct negative impact and a long-term direct and indirect positive impact on the resource. Check all boxes that apply and use the space provided in the final column "Explanation of Impact to Resource" to explain.

Example		
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil lump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	*Current Conditions:* *Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:*

3. **Explanation of Impact to Resource:** In the final column, use the space provided on the Environmental Checklist to summarize the following information:
   - ***a. Current Conditions***
     - Describe the current environmental resources of the affected area including the impact of no action. Your description of the current natural resources will provide a baseline to compare all alternatives and their associated environmental impacts.
   - ***b. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:***
     - Describe the impact of the preferred alternative or ***indicate why there is no impact*** from the project.
     - Identify any reasonable cumulative impacts that may result from implementing the preferred alternative. Cumulative impacts are the collective impacts on the

environment when considered in conjunction with other past, present, and future actions related to the proposed project.

- If a potentially adverse impact is identified for the preferred alternative, the applicant must provide the following:
  - An analysis of the severity, duration, extent, and frequency of the impact. Please specify and describe the following:
    - Severity: negligible, minor, or major.
    - Duration: short-term or long-term.
    - Extent: local, regional, or statewide.
    - Frequency: non-recurring or recurring.
  - An explanation of short- and/or long-term measures to mitigate the impact with a discussion on the effects of those mitigative measures on the proposed project.
- Identify any required permits.

4. **Additional Information:** Underneath the table the following information must be provided:
   a. Cultural Survey Acknowledgement
   b. Sources of Information: Identify all sources consulted for the completion of the Environmental Checklist. Sources may include studies, plans, documents, or the persons, organizations, or agencies contacted for assistance.

Certain sections of this Environmental Checklist may require specialized knowledge. Please contact the necessary agencies if further specialized knowledge is needed and attach comments provided by those agencies to your application. Below are contacts for certain sections that may require additional review by other agencies:

- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #5*** **– Surface Water Quality** – Montana Department of Environmental Quality, (406) 444 - 3080.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #6*** **– Floodplains and Floodplain Management** – The Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Division, (406) 444 - 0860 or visit: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/floodplain-management.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #7*** **– Wetlands** – U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, (406) 441 - 1375 or montana.reg@usace.army.mil.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #9*** **– Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats** – Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Office (406) 444 - 2612 or find your Regional Office at https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/contact-us.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #10*** **– Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consultation on potential impacts to endangered or limited plants, fish, or other wildlife, (406) 449 - 5225.
- *Human Environment,* ***Section #4*** **– Historic Properties, Cultural or Archaeological Resources –** Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), (406) 444 – 7718 or pebrown@mt.gov.

For assistance in preparing the Environmental Checklist, contact DNRC grant manager listed on grant application.

Environmental Checklist

Applicant Name: Anaconda Deer Lodge County

Project Title: ANACONDA WATER SYSTEM DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Environmental Checklist Prepared by: On: 7/12/2021

Shawn Arthur	Water and Environmental Technologies
Name of Person 1	Organization
406-205-0952	sarthur@waterenvtech.com
Phone Number	Email
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Name of Person 2	Organization
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Phone Number	Email

Click or tap here to enter text.

List additional people above. Include organization, phone number and email for all.

Physical Environment		
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil lump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: Existing water mains located in paved or graveled Anaconda Deer Lodge roadways. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Surfacing will be replaced to better than existing after main replacement.
2. Hazardous Facilities (example: power lines, hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities and propane storage tanks)		
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is located in a documented EPA Superfund area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Anaconda Deer Lodge County Public Works is deeply familiar with the requirements of completing excavation related work in the Superfund impacted areas and will incorporate all requirements and coordinate with the regulating authority during the construction process.

3. Surrounding Air Quality (example: dust, odors, emissions)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☒ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: Existing water mains located in paved or graveled Anacond Deer lodge roadways. The dust and emissions is minimal. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: A minor, short term, local, non-recurring impact to air quality is expected from dust and equipment emissions, Construction dust control will be imployed as mitigation.
4. Groundwater Resources and Aquifers (example: quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)		
☒ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The Anaconda community is underlain by a shallow depth ground water aquifer that migrates north to Warm Springs Creek and east toward the Clark Fork RIver. The City is supplied by wells. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The correction of leaking mains will have no appreciable impact on the local ground water. A reduction of leakage and a prevention of main breaks that will result from replacement of aged mains will have a beneficial direct effect of conservation of the groundwater resource in the area of the supply wells.
5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution (example: streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is replacement of existing aged water mains with new modern materials mains. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will have no measurable impact on surface water.
6. Floodplains and Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is located in streets classified as Zone B and Zone C flood plain of Warm Springs Creek. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not be installed during flood conditions and will replace the existing streets to pre-project conditions or better and have no impact on the existing Flood Plain or Flood Plain Management.
7. Wetlands (Identify any wetlands within one mile of the boundary of the project and state potential impacts.)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The primary wetland that could be impacted by the project is Warm Springs Creek and the associated riparian / wetland areas. They are located 0.16 miles to the north and run the length of the project. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The replacement of the water mains in the existing streets will have no impact on the wetlands.

8. Agricultural Lands, Production, and Farmland Protection (example: grazing, forestry, cropland, prime or unique agricultural lands) Identify any prime or important farm ground or forest lands within one mile of the boundary of the project.		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: There are no agricultural lands in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No agricultural lands will be affected.
9. Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats, Including Fish (example: terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The primary vegetation and aquatic species that could be impacted by the project are associated with Warm Springs Creek and the associated riparian / wetland areas. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No vegetation or wildlife species will be impacted in the streets associated with the project.
10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (example: plants, fish or wildlife)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: None of the areas of concern for this item exist in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: None of the areas of concern for this item exist in the project area.
11. Unique Natural Features (example: geologic features)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: None of the areas of concern for this item exist in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: None of the areas of concern for this item exist in the project area.
12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational and Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways, and Public Open Space		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: None of the areas of concern for this item exist in the project area. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: None of the areas of concern for this item exist in the project area.
Human Environment		
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Resource**
1. Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: Existing water mains located in paved or graveled roadways and alleys. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There will be no change to the visual quality of the human environment as a result of the project. All surfacing will be replaced to equal or better.
2. Nuisances (example: glare, fumes)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: Existing water mains located in paved or graveled roadways. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No nuisances will result from this project.

3. Noise – Suitable Separation Between Housing and Other Noise Sensitive Activities and Major Noise Sources (example: aircraft, highways and railroads.)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☒ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: Existing water mains located in paved or graveled roadways. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Construction related noise will be minor, short term, local non-recurring and will be mitigated by work hour restrictions to limit the disturbance.
4. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources ***(Please see end of Environmental Checklist for details if Cultural Survey has not been performed per SHPO Section 106)***		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: Existing water mains located in paved or graveled roadways. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The main replacements will occur in the same locations as the original mains were installed. If unknown resources are identified they will be protected.
5. Changes in Demographic (Population) Characteristics (example: quantity, distribution, density)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No change in demographics will result from the project.
6. General Housing Conditions – Quality, Quantity, Affordability		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No change to housing conditions will result from the project.
7. Businesses or Residents (example: loss of, displacement, or relocation)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No changes to businesses or residents will result from the project.
8. Public Health and Safety		
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The existing aged water mains will be replaced. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The improved water mains will make the water system more reliable and safe.
9. Local Employment – Quantity or Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact		
☒ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No change to local employmet will result from the proposed project. Short term construction employment will be beneficial to the local businesses and general Deer Lodge County population.
10. Income Patterns – Economic Impact		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There will be no income pattern effects from the project.
11. Local and State Tax Base and Revenues		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There will be no change to the tax base or revenues from the project.

12. Community and Government Services and Facilities (example: educational facilities; health and medical services and facilities; police; emergency medical services; and parks, playgrounds and open space)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There will be no impact to services and facilities from the project.
13. Commercial and Industrial Facilities – Production and Activity, Growth or Decline		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There will be no impact to commercial and industrial facilities from the project.
14. Social Structures and Mores (example: standards of social conduct/social conventions)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There will be no impacts to the social structures and morals of the community from the proposed project.
15. Land Use Compatibility (example: growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There will be no land use changes from the project.
16. Energy Resources – Consumption and Conservation		
☒ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Energy resources will be consumed during materials manufacture and construction. The aged mains will be replaced at some time due to failure and the energy use at that time will be equivalent to the main replacement in this project. The timing of the energy use will have no overall impact to the energy resources that must inevitabley be committed to the project. Uncontroled mainline water breaks or leaks waste the resources and energy required to produce the water indirectly.
17. Solid Waste Management		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project has no impact on solid waste management.
18. Wastewater Treatment – Sewage System		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project has no impact on wastewater treatment.

19. Storm Water – Surface Drainage		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☒ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project has no impact on storm water or surface drainage..
20. Community Water Supply		
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The system is supplied by well water produced by the system owner. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Improvement of the distribution system conserves the water supply by preventing leakage and breaks.
21. Fire Protection – Hazards		
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main and fire hydrants replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will not effect the fire protection capability of the community but will significantly improve the reliability of the fire hydrants that are replaced.
22. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will have no effect on cultural facilities, uniqueness or diversity.
23. Transportation Networks and Traffic Flow Conflicts (example: rail; auto including local traffic; airport runway clear zones – avoidance of incompatible land use in airport runway clear zones)		
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☒ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will have a minor, short term, local and non-recurring effect on traffic in the construction area during the project.
24. Consistency with Local Ordinances, Resolutions, or Plans (example: conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning, or capital improvement plans.)		
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project is consitance with local ordinances, and City / County plans.
25. Private Property Rights (example: a regulatory action or project activity that reduces, minimizes, or eliminates the use of private property.)		
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	Current Conditions: The project is a water main replacement in the same location. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There will be no impct to private property rights from this project.

Additional Information

****If no cultural survey has been performed, or is not expected to be needed, applicant must agree to the following statement:**

☒ I hereby agree that, to my knowledge, there are no cultural or paleontological materials in the

proposed project site. If previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, the DNRC grant manager will be notified, and all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

List all sources of information used to complete the Environmental Checklist. Sources may include studies, plans, documents, or the individuals, organizations, or agencies contacted for assistance. For individuals, groups, or agencies, please include a contact person and phone number. List any scoping documents or meetings and/or public meetings during project development.

Elizabeth Erickson and Shawn Arthur – Water and Environmental Technologies – 406-205-0952.

Below is a list of electronic resources available for data gathering to aid in the development of the Environmental Checklist:

Abandoned Mines (DEQ): https://deq.mt.gov/Land/abandonedmines/bluebook

Agricultural Statistics (USDA): USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - Data and Statistics

Air Quality

- Nonattainment Areas: http://deq.mt.gov/Air/airquality/planning/airnonattainmentstatus
- Citizens' Guide: http://deq.mt.gov/Air/airmonitoring/citguide

Army Corps of Engineers: http://www.usace.army.mil/Home.aspx

Bureau of Business and Economic Research, UM: http://www.bber.umt.edu/

Cadastral (for property ownership info): http://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral

Census Information, MT Dept. of Commerce: http://ceic.mt.gov

Conservation Districts, MT: http://macdnet.org/

Cultural Records

- Montana Historical Society: http://mhs.mt.gov/shpo/culturalrecords.asp

DEQ data search tools: Montana DEQ's GIS Portal (mt.gov)

- Including Clean Water Act Info Center, Hazardous Waste Handlers, Petroleum Release Fund Claims, Unpermitted Releases, Underground Storage Tanks, Source Water Protection

EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online http://echo.epa.gov/

Farmland Classification: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

Fish (Also See Wildlife)

- Montana Fisheries Information System: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks GIS Data (arcgis.com)
- Aquatic Invasive Species: Montana FWP AIS Surveys Dashboard 2021 (arcgis.com)

Floodplain Maps, FEMA: https://msc.fema.gov/portal

Geographic Information, Natural Resources Information System: http://nris.mt.gov/gis

Geologic Information - MBMG - Publications - Download Geologic Maps (mtech.edu)

Maps of Montana for species observations, land cover, wetland and riparian areas, land management: Montana Natural Heritage Program (mtnhp.org); http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/?t=6

Montana Department of Transportation Environmental Manual: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/manuals/env/preface.pdf

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Information System: http://bogc.dnrc.mt.gov/webApps/DataMiner/

Plants

- Plant database, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: http://plants.usda.gov/java
- Plant Species, MT Field Guide: http://fieldguide.mt.gov/default.aspx
- Plant Species of Concern: http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/Default.aspx?AorP=p
- Threatened and endangered plants, USDA: http://plants.usda.gov/threat.html

Soils

- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service database: https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/
- Montana soil and water conservation districts: http://swcdmi.org/

State Historic Preservation Office: http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo

Tourism, UM – Institute of Tourism & Recreation Research: http://www.itrr.umt.edu

Tribal Resources:

- Blackfeet Tribal Environmental Permits: http://www.blackfeetenvironmental.com
- CSKT Natural Resources Department: http://nrd.csktribes.org/
- Montana Office of Indian Affairs: http://tribalnations.mt.gov/
- Tribal Historic Preservation Officer List Search - NATHPO

Vehicle Traffic Count (MDT): http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/traffic.shtml

Water

- Stream Record Extension Facilitator, USGS: USGS | National Water Dashboard
- Streamstats basin characteristics, USGS: http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/
- Water Resources Division, DNRC: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water ; ArcGIS Web Application (mt.gov)
- Water Rights Bureau, DNRC: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/water-rights
- Water Right Query System, DNRC: DNRC Water Right Query System (mt.gov)
- Wetlands database, USFWS: http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/mapper.html

Wild and Scenic Rivers: http://www.rivers.gov/montana.php

Wildlife

- Animal Species, MT Field Guide: http://fieldguide.mt.gov/default.aspx
- Animal Species of Concern: http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/Default.aspx?AorP=a
- Aquatic Invasive Species: Montana FWP AIS Surveys Dashboard 2021 (arcgis.com)
- Critical Habitat Mapper, USFWS: http://ecos.fws.gov/crithab/
- Crucial Areas Planning System/Habitat Assessment Tool: Habitat MT (HB 526) Funded Lands (arcgis.com)
- FWP Contact Map: http://fwp.mt.gov/gis/maps/contactUs/ (includes biologist responsibility areas)
- Maps and GIS Data, FWP: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks GIS Data (arcgis.com)
- Sage grouse management, FWP: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks GIS Data : Sage-grouse Habitat/Current Distribution (Montana) : Sage-grouse Habitat/Current Distribution (Montana) (arcgis.com)
- Sage grouse habitat conservation program, DNRC: http://sagegrouse.mt.gov/
- Sage grouse habitat map: https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/ProgramMap

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Butte-Silver Bow Basin Creek Dam #1 Rehabilitation
December 2022
City-County of Butte-Silver Bow
45.854456 Lat, -112.545725 Long
Butte-Silver Bow County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The City-County of Butte-Silver Bow (BSB) Water Department owns and operates three drinking water treatment plants. Because the community of Butte grew up around rich mineral deposits and not a significant water source, water must be brought to the community from far and wide including 20+ miles to the south from the Big Hole River, 7+ miles to the southeast from Basin Creek, and finally the Moulton Reservoir/Moulton Creek just north of town. The Basin Creek Reservoir water source is a clean, economical, and reliable source of supply for the community, and it flows downhill to the treatment plant requiring minimal pumping. These surface water sources are critical to the community because the groundwater has been permanently damaged due to historic mining activities.

Basin Creek Reservoir/Dam #1 supplies water to Butte's Basin Creek Water Treatment Plant (WTP). This WTP, constructed in 2017, is a gravity powered ceramic filtration plant rated for 7 MGD. When the Reservoir is full (or nearly full) the Basin Creek WTP is capable of operating as a gravity fed system to the Basin Creek pressure zone. Because the system is fed by gravity, it is Butte's most economical source of water and typically provides up to 60% of Butte's annual water supply. The Reservoir provides approximately 364 million gallons of storage and when at full pool, provides enough hydraulic head to operate the WTP by gravity with very little pumping required.

The 2019 Periodic Inspection Report of Basin Creek Dam #1 described numerous cracks, spalls, and signs of severe deterioration of the concrete on the upstream face of the dam. A professional structural assessment examined the stability of the dam and the existing mass concrete section condition and determined that the mass concrete section did not meet the requirements for rotational and sliding stability during the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). The report identified three retrofit alternatives to remediate the poor concrete condition along the upper dam face and provide stability during overtopping events associated with the PMF or upstream reservoir failure.

The project will make improvement to a system that is vulnerable to disruption from natural causes (flooding, drought) threatening the operation of the recently constructed Basin Creek WTP. Maximizing the capacity of this water source while ensuring the integrity and proper function of the dam is essential to maintaining and managing the water system capacity water delivery to the city and its citizens.

The project includes the following activities:

- Full removal and replacement of the parapet wall.
- Partial removal and replacement of the upper mass concrete (approximately 20" thickness)
- Concrete overlay over the dam face.
- Installation of approximately 40 feet of two inch diameter post-tension anchor rods, each rated to 140 KIPS through the mass concrete into the masonry core.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Butte-Silver Bow Basin Creek Dam #1 Rehabilitation Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:**	Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant		
	Title:	Program Specialist	**Date:**	12/29/2022
	Email:	Samantha.kemp@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman		
	Title: Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 877FC22FC080491...	**Date**:	12/30/2022 | 12:20:02 PM MST

View of general concrete deterioration along upper face of Basin Creek Dam.

View of upstream dam crest.

Figure 2-1
Location Map- Basin Creek Dams and Basin Creek Water Treatment Plant

CITY-COUNTY OF BUTTE-SILVER BOW
BASIN CREEK DAM #1 REHABILITATION PER

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Butte-Silver Bow Basin Creek #1 Dam Rehabilitation

Brief Description: Dam Rehabilitation

Agreement Number: AMC-23-0007

Date: 12/29/2022

Preparer: Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Program Specialist

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Yes - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. No - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. NA - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Program Specialist
DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

12/29/2022 | 9:11:07 PM MST

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Sweet Grass Conservation District – Ellison Ditch Headgate Improvements Project
March 2023
Sweet Grass Conservation District
45.730191, -109.995282
Sweet Grass County

PURPOSE AND NEED

Flooding and high water on the Boulder River between June 10 and June 14, 2022, caused significant erosion around the Ellison Ditch Headgate on the Boulder River about 7.5 miles South of Big Timber. The most significant concern is the impact to the concrete structure itself from the high water velocities and volume compounded with erosion around the structure, undermining the structure. Sediment was also introduced into the irrigation canal when the headgate overtopped and flows were 50-60% above normal during the flooding. The preferred alternative is to replace and relocate the headgate.

The goal is to completely replace the existing headgate structure with improved orientation to the Boulder River flows, which will reduce erosive forces on structure and improve water right delivery. The improved orientation will further reduce erosion below the headgate and within the canal.

Construction activities for this project include:

- Construction approximately 600 linear feet of temporary access road
- Demolishing, removing, and disposing the existing concrete headgate structure
- Constructing a new 30 cubic yard cast-in-place concrete headgate structure with 2 slide gates
- Installing approximately 100 cubic yard of riprap rock for bank stabilization

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Sweet Grass Conservation District – Ellison Ditch Headgate Improvements Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

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☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:**	Erin Wall		
	Title:	ARPA Program Specialist	**Date:**	12/2/2022
	Email:	Erin.wall@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman		
	Title: Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC8364641...	**Date**:	12/8/2022 | 3:57:29 PM MST

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Elliston Ditch Headgate Improvements Project

Brief Description: Flooding, erosion, and high-water damage to the headgates, replace damaged headgate.

Agreement Number: AC-23-0206

Date: 12/1/2022

Preparer: Samantha Treu, MEPA Coordinator

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. Yes - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Choose an item. - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Samantha Trapp MPA Coordinator
Click or tap here to enter text.
DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Autumn Coleman Bureau Chief
Click or tap here to enter text.
DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

12/8/2022 | 3:57:29 PM MST
Click or tap to enter a date.
COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Flathead County Water District #1 - Evergreen Lift Stations 2 & 15 Emergency Bypass / Critical Renovations
December 2022
Flathead County Water District #1
Kalispell
Flathead County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Evergreen Sewer System was designed to convey all of the wastewater through two key collectors, Lift Stations 2 and 15, and then to a central collection point at Lift Station 19. While Lift Station 19 is the critical center collection point, Lift Stations 2 and 15 are equally important facilities in the Evergreen Water & Sewer District's (District's) sewer collection system. The stations were not designed with emergency bypass facilities. This project is focused on addressing the problems at Lift Stations 2 and 15.

Without bypass capabilities, any major and prolonged equipment failure could flood local neighborhoods, backing up into homes with basements, potentially contaminating drinking water supplies, flooding streets, yards, businesses, and public facilities, and causing injury to human health and safety as well as environmental damage. At both Lift Stations 2 and 15, there are federally protected wetlands in close proximity to the Stations. Damage to the wetlands could potentially harm protected bird species as well as wildlife.

Additionally, the two lift stations are operating with infrastructure and equipment that is nearing the end of its functional life cycle, increasing the likelihood of a major failure in the future. Doing major emergency repairs, given obsolescence of parts and supply chain problems, can be difficult with extremely limited time to complete the repair and put the Stations back online.

Because Lift Stations 2 and 15 are key collection points, lengthy repairs could cause backups and sewage spills at 23 District Lift Stations that feed into Lift Stations 2 & 15. The aging equipment also has high energy demands. The upgraded pumps, generator, and telemetry are necessary to provide significant energy efficiency, benefiting customers and the environment. These equipment upgrades are also needed for climate resiliency. Both Lift Stations are within the 100-year flood-plain in Evergreen so the facilities are at risk for climate-related events.

The project includes:

1. *Lift Station 2 Renovation and Bypass*:
    a. Pump replacement.
    b. Piping, valves, and fittings replacement.
    c. Backup generator replacement.

    d. New bypass pumping facility construction.
        i. Modifications to piping, electrical, and controls.
2. *Lift Station 15 Renovation and Bypass:*
    a. Pump replacement.
    b. Piping, valves, and fittings replacement.
    c. Backup generator replacement.
    d. New bypass pumping facility construction.
        i. Modifications to piping, electrical, and controls.
3. *Trailer-Mounted Bypass:*
    a. New trailer-mounted bypass pump facility acquisition.
        i. Includes two suction lift pumps for use as an emergency bypass at Lift Stations 2, 15, and the remaining lift stations in the system.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Flathead County Water District #1 - Evergreen Lift Stations 2 & 15 Emergency Bypass / Critical Renovations Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

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The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Samantha Treu MEPA Coordinator **Title:** **Email:** samantha.treu@mt.gov	**Date:**	12/2/2022 | 3:07:13 PM MST

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman **Title:** Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**:	12/8/2022 | 3:58:50 PM MST

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Flathead County Water District #1 - Evergreen Lift Stations 2 & 15 Emergency Bypass / Critical Renovations

Brief Description: Lift Station Improvements

Agreement Number: AC-22-0116

Date: 11/30/2021

Preparer: Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Program Specialist

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. Yes - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. Choose an item. - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Yes - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Yes - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. NA - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Program Specialist

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Autumn Coleman Maneau Chief
Click or tap here to enter text.

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

12/8/2022 | 3:58:50 PM MST
Click or tap to enter a date.

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Big Porcupine Irrigation Siphon Replacement
September 2022
Hammond Irrigation District and Rosebud County
46.304097 Latitude | Longitude -106.835856
Rosebud County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Hammond Irrigation District Big Porcupine Siphon Replacement Project is intended to eliminate water loss from the irrigation canal via the siphon and mitigate water quality issues in Big Porcupine Creek and the Yellowstone River. The project will replace the Big Porcupine Siphon that carries the irrigation water to the lower sections of the Hammond Irrigation District. Project construction is expected to begin late 2022 and end March 2023.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Hammond irrigation District Big Porcupine Irrigation Siphon Replacement Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

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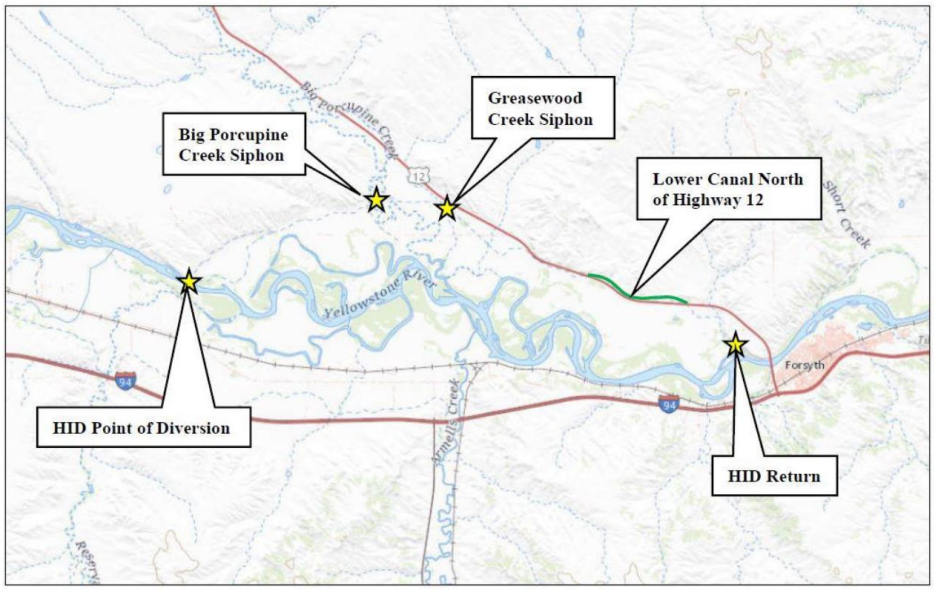
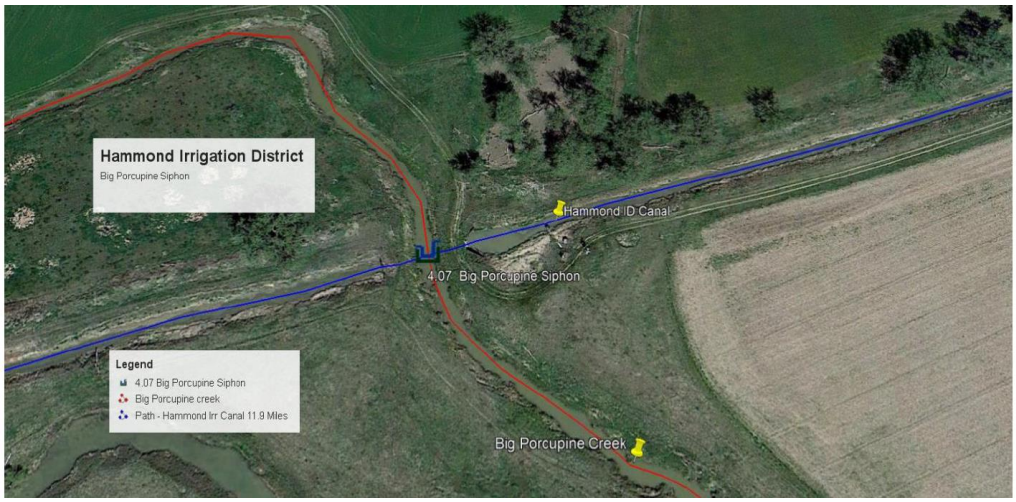
The project listed on page 1 meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included on pages 4-7 is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

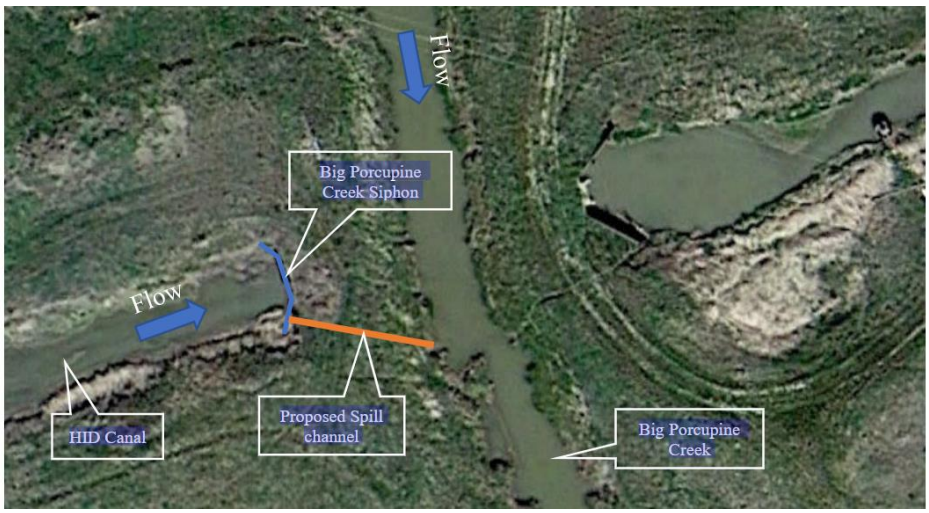
Prepared By:	**Name:**	Shawna Swanz, ARPA Grant Manager	**Date:**	11/22/2022
	Title:			
	Email:	Shawna.Swanz@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name:	Autumn Coleman	
	Title:	Bureau Chief	
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 07ZEC22EC836461...	**Date**:	12/8/2022 | 2:28:00 PM MST

Hammond Irrigation District and Rosebud County Big Porcupine Irrigation Siphon Replacement







DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Rosebud County Hammond Irrigation District - Big Porcupine Siphon Replacement

Brief Description: The objective is to replace the compromised Big Porcupine Siphon that carries the irrigation water to the lower sections of the HID, before the Siphon fails completely. Construction activities would take place during the off season (October – March) when the irrigation canal is not in operation. The completed project will eliminate water loss from the canal via the siphon and mitigate water quality issues in Big Porcupine Creek and the Yellowstone River. The new structure will include a spill into Big Porcupine Creek in the event the canal has to be rapidly drained during a large storm event or due to an obstruction in the canal below the siphon.

Agreement Number: AM-22-0111

Date: 9/13/2022

Preparer: Demi Blythe – MEPA/NEPA Coordinator

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. Yes - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or

6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or

7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Yes - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Yes - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Demi Blythe
DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Mark Bostrom - Administrator
DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

9/13/2022
COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Kalispell Stormwater Treatment Facilities – Ashley Creek Drainage Basins
from TMDL Action Plan
December 2022
Kalispell, City of
48.18, -114.31
Flathead County

PURPOSE AND NEED

Sediment and nutrient pollutants in urban stormwater runoff discharges to impaired waterbodies within Kalispell City (City) limits. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates stormwater discharges (per the EPA-Clean Water Act) for large municipalities via the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit program. Kalispell, an MS4 permittee since 2006, has managed a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) with a mission to protect water quality.

Special conditions regarding Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) must be met as part of Kalispell's MS4 permit because the urban stormwater discharges to listed impaired waterbodies. Kalispell's non-point source stormwater discharge has been given a waste load allocation as part of the 2014 Flathead-Stillwater Planning Area Nutrient, Sediment and Temperature TMDLs.

Ashley Creek is listed with an impairment for sediment and nutrient pollutants. Kalispell has a waste load allocation for those pollutants to be met through implementation of MS4 permit practices outlined in the City's SWMP and TMDL Action Plan. Within the DEQ approved TMDL Action Plan, the City identified practices to reduce the sediment and nutrient loading to Ashley Creek. One practice is the construction of water quality (WQ) treatment facilities at the discharge points to the impaired waterbody that are currently lacking treatment prior to discharge.

This project will support Kalispell's effort to meet the stormwater discharge nutrient and sediment TMDL for Ashley Creek and remain in compliance with the MS4 permit. Water quality treatment systems, from two outfall locations, will be designed to remove total suspend solids and nutrient stormwater from approximately 833 developed acres within the west Kalispell limits, prior to discharging to the Ashley Creek.

The water quality treatment facilities will be evaluated and selected based the location, land area, city property, design, and construction restrictions with the intent to capture the stormwater water quality volume and remove a percentage of the total suspended sediments (TSS) and nutrients prior to discharging to the Ashley Creek. The treatment units will be designed and constructed to meet all water quality regulatory requirements specified by DEQ and the City, in addition to meeting the City's TMDL Action Plan commitments.

Project Components
The project will help address the deficiencies of the stormwater discharges with the construction of stormwater treatment facilities for two storm sewer outfalls to Ashley Creek located at the 11th Street Outfall and south of Outfall 6.

Ashley Creek Outfall 11 Location

- Traffic control, mobilization, construction survey, dewatering, and erosion and sediment controls
- Removal of ~65 square yards of asphalt and ~30 lineal feet 42" reinforced concrete pipe
- Installation of Jellyfish 8X12-20-6 Water Quality Treatment Unit
- Installation of a 1 - 96", 1 - 72", and 1 - 48" manholes
- Installation of approximately 200' of new 12" storm pipe, and two connections to existing storm mains, and two inlets
- Installation of approximately 50' -24" SD, and 50' – 42" storm pipe, and two connections to existing storm mains
- Installation of ~ 65 square yards of asphalt, ~200' of curb/gutter, and type 2 bedding (if necessary)
- Landscape restoration

Ashley Creek Outfall 6 Location

- Traffic control, mobilization, construction survey, dewatering, and erosion and sediment controls
- Removal of ~130 square yards of asphalt and ~60 lineal feet 42" reinforced concrete pipe
- Installation of two water quality units for each separate Ashely Creek Outfall, a CDS 5640 and a CDS 5553 Water Quality Treatment Unit
- Installation of connecting manholes including: 1 - 96", 1 - 72", and 1 - 48" manholes
- Installation of approximately 200' of new 12" storm pipe, and two connections to existing storm mains, two inlets, and two manholes
- Installation of approximately 50' -24" SD, and 50' – 42" storm pipe, and two connections to existing storm mains
- Installation of ~ 65 square yards asphalt, ~200' of curb/gutter, and type 2 bedding (if necessary)
- Landscape restoration

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Kalispell Stormwater Treatment Facilities – Ashley Creek Drainage Basins from TMDL Action Plan project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

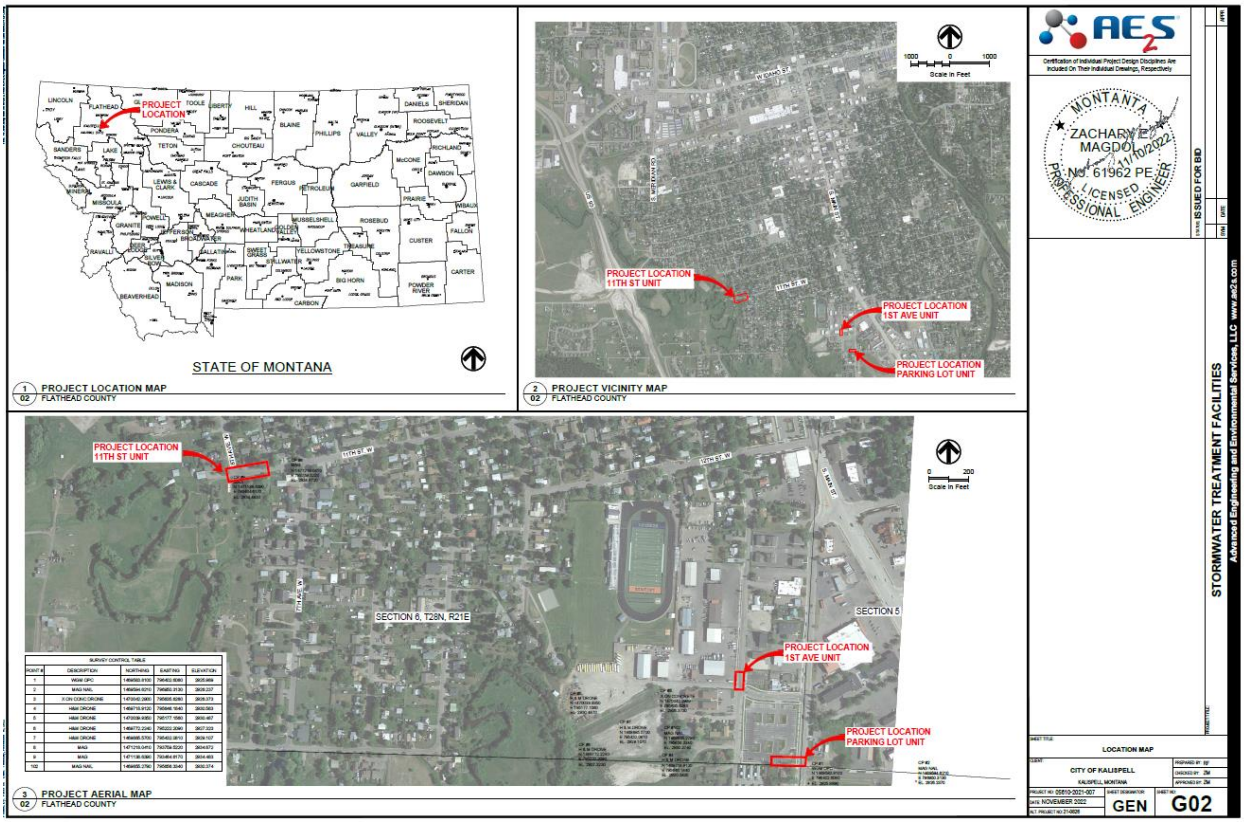
☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or

programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:**	Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant		
	Title:	Program Specialist	**Date:**	12/5/2022
	Email:	Samantha.kemp@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman	
	Title: Bureau Chief	
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**: 12/9/2022 | 3:15:53 PM MST



DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Kalispell Stormwater Treatment Facilities – Ashley Creek Drainage Basins

Brief Description: Improve deficiencies of stormwater discharges

Agreement Number: AC-22-0032

Date: 12/5/2022

Preparer: Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Program Specialist

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. Yes - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. Yes - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Yes - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Yes - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. NA - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Program Specialist
DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu, MEPA Coordinator
DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

12/5/2022
COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Missoula County Lolo Water Improvements Project
December 2022
Missoula County

46.75922, -114.081906
Missoula County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Lolo Water District (District) located in Missoula County (County) serves both commercial and residential properties and has approximately 1200 service connections. The District is made up of three ground source wells that provide potable water to the distribution system. The system includes fire hydrants, valves, pressure reducing values (PRVs) and three water tanks found in parklands in the upper western portion of the District. The District's distribution system and structures can be found in the public rights-of-ways, public utility easements, or Missoula County owned properties. One transmission main was granted an easement to cross Montana Rail Links' (MRL) right-of-way at Glacier Drive to provide service to the lower half of the District – this is currently the only link to the lower half of the system.

The water mains in several locations throughout the District are undersized and have outlived their life expectancy, having been constructed approximately 50 years ago from asbestos cement pipe material. The aged condition of the existing system has resulted in several recent water main breaks and a continuous increase in the quantity of non-revenue water or unaccounted for water suspected to be leaking from the system. The quantity of the non-revenue water has increased from approximately 28% in 2016 to nearly 43% in 2020. The transmission main that crosses the railroad tracks on Glacier Drive has had two water breaks in the past few years. This is particularly concerning since it is the only source of water supplying residents east of the railroad tracks which is approximately 710 connections, nearly 60% of the system's customers. These breaks have caused outages lasting several hours while contractors are mobilized to the area to make emergency repairs exposing residents to harmful bacterial contamination.

The Lolo Water Improvements project includes improving the capacity and reliability of the supply wells and improving the distribution system reliability by replacing old, leaky piping and constructing redundant crossings of the MRL Railroad tracks. The project will be bid as two separate projects due to the type of work and contractors qualified to perform each project.

The project includes:

Well 1 and 2 Improvements.

- Increase the pumping capacity of Wells No. 1 and No. 2.
- Replace the existing vertical turbine pumps.
- Increase motor sizes, adding variable frequency drives and upgrading the associated electrical connections.

- Add standby power.
- Improve the SCADA system to improve operability and remote control functions.

Distribution System Improvements

- Install a new water main along Farm Lane from Highway 93 to Ashton Loop (~1,800 ft).
- Replace and upsize of the old asbestos cement water main from Well No. 1 and No. 2, along Glacier Drive and across the railroad tracks (~560 ft).
- Extend a new eight-inch water main crossing under the railroad tracks at Tyler Way to connect the west side and the east side of the system (~320 ft).
- Install Pressure Reducing Valve upgrades and replacements.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Missoula County Lolo Water Improvements Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

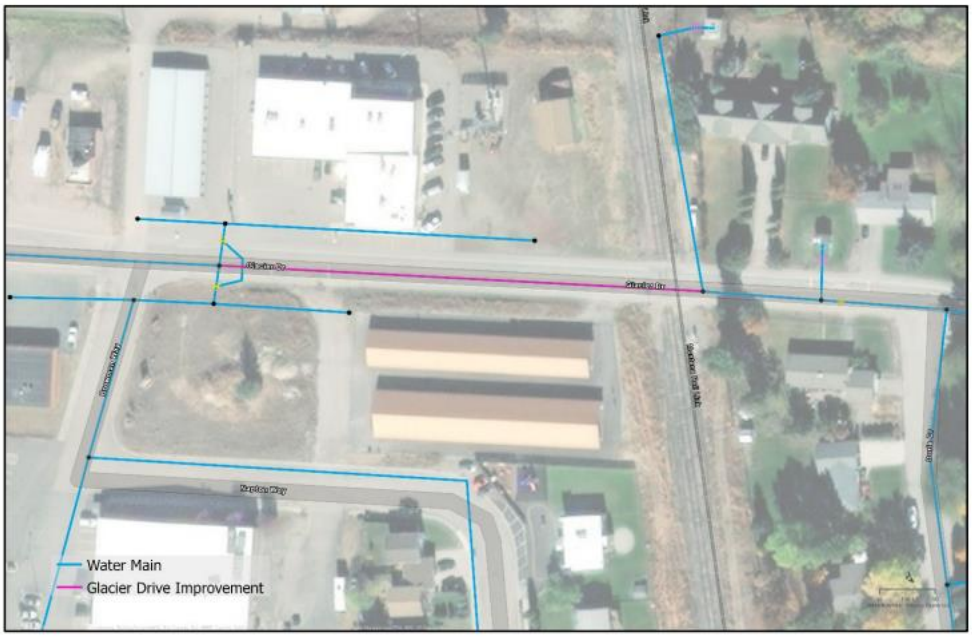
☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

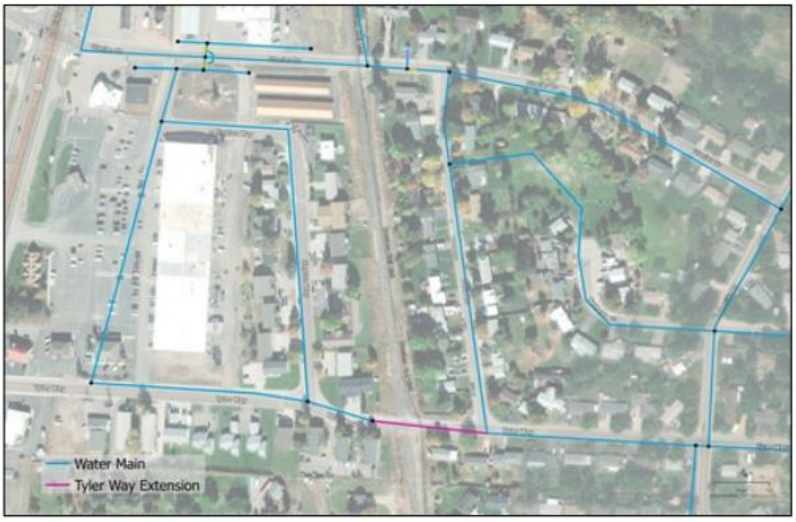
☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:**	Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant		
	Title:	Program Specialist	**Date:**	12/21/2022
	Email:	Samantha.kemp@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name:	Autumn Coleman	
	Title:	Bureau Chief	
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 07FEC225EC836461...	**Date**:	12/29/2022 | 2:57:10 PM MST





DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Missoula County Lolo Water Improvements Project

Brief Description: Improvements to Wells and Distribution System

Agreement Number: AM-23-0231

Date: 12/21/2022

Preparer: Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Program Specialist

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. Yes - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. Yes - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. Yes - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Yes - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. No - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. NA - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Samantha Kemp, ARPA Grant Program Specialist

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

12/28/2022 | 9:04:49 PM MST

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
or
PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

Teton County Power Water and Sewer System Improvements Project
12/31/22
Teton County
Power, Montana

PURPOSE AND NEED

Background:

The Power-Teton County Water and Sewer District (District) encompasses roughly 2.5 square miles in north central Montana and provides water and sewer service to the community of Power, Montana. The District's aging water and sewer systems have suffered multiple failures requiring emergency repairs and extensive planning efforts. More repairs are anticipated. Continued planning is required. Water system issues have included water main leaks/breaks and water plant equipment and process failures which have resulted in temporary outages to the community and lack of a reliable water treatment system. The sewer system's lift station has experienced multiple critical failures including two forcemain breaks and multiple pump failures which have left the station inoperable for as long as several days. The issues in both systems are related to the age of the equipment and infrastructure. In addition, the poor raw water quality of Muddy Creek is especially difficult to treat and causes equipment to wear out quickly. The extensive emergency repairs to the water and sewer systems have depleted many of the District's financial reserves and operating funds.

This project will rehabilitate or replace key infrastructure in the water distribution, water treatment, and centralized wastewater collection systems and will help ensure a safer and more reliable water system. Some of the rehabilitation activities include lift station repairs, forcemain repairs, water main repairs, and water treatment plant equipment/facility repair or replacement. Other project objectives include planning activities related to lead service lines and water meters, a Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) Amendment, and an evaluation of the water treatment plant's pre-sedimentation pond.

Scope of Work:

The project will improve the safety and reliability of Power's water and sewer systems by rehabilitating or replacing key infrastructure, addressing emergency repairs, and by funding planning activities related to the water system. ARPA funds will cover personnel costs, grant administration, an audit, construction/repairs, and engineering/technical assistance.

Project Construction tasks will include the following:

- Water main repairs
- Water treatment plant repairs and rehabilitation
- Lift station repairs
- Forcemain repairs

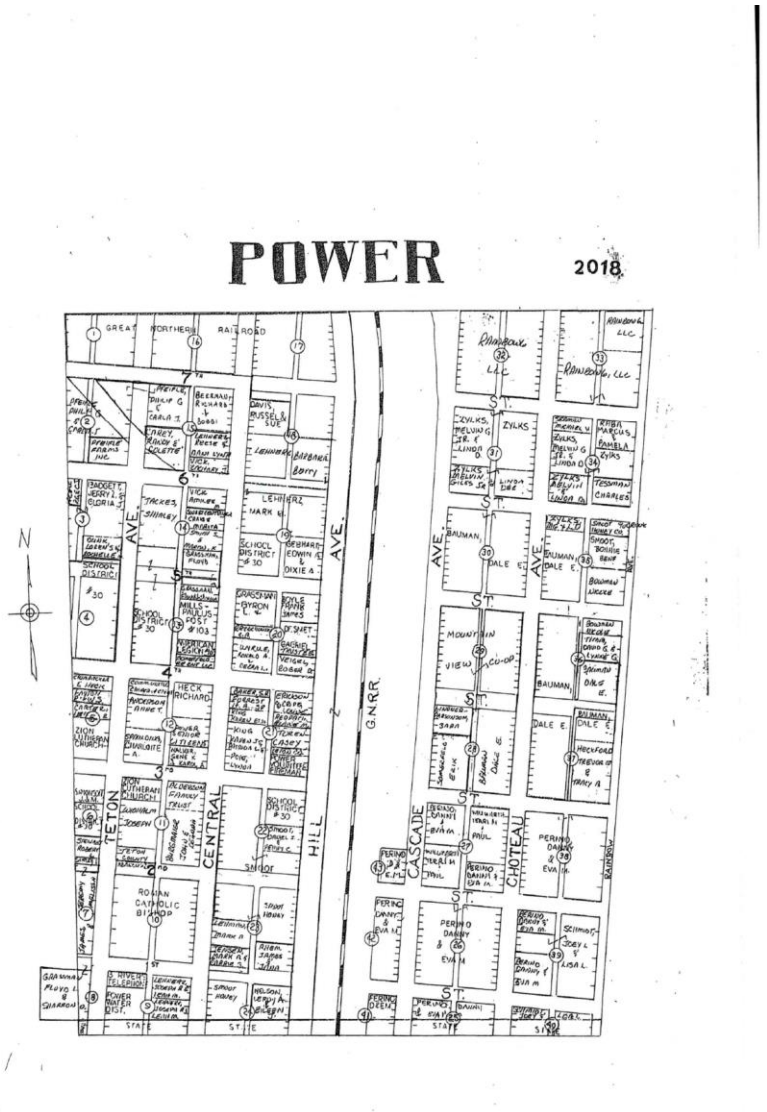
Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices and will meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies.

DNRC will approve the grant AND/OR loan to provide funding for the Teton County Power Water and Sewer System Improvements Project Project.

Schedule:

Project Engineering Phase	Project Bidding Phase	Project Construction Phase
Completed March 2022	N/A	Completed December 2024

Project Area:



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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name: Seth Shteir** **Title:ARPA Grant Manager** **Email:seth.shteir2@mt.gov**	**Date:** **12/21/22**

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman **Title:** Bureau Chief	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 07F5C22FC836461...	**Date**:	12/29/2022 | 3:00:07 PM MST

DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Teton County Power Water and Sewer System Improvements Project

Brief Description: The project will improve the safety and reliability of Power's water and sewer systems by rehabilitating or replacing key infrastructure, addressing emergency repairs, and by funding planning activities related to the water system. ARPA funds will cover personnel costs, grant administration, an audit, construction/repairs, and engineering/technical assistance.

Agreement Number: AM-23-0182

Date: 12/21/2022

Preparer: Seth Shteir

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. Yes - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. Yes - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Yes - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Yes - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. No - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Seth Shteir

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

12/28/2022 | 9:13:08 PM MST

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

Conservation and Resource Development Division
Environmental Checklist Instructions

Purpose of This Document:

All applicants must consider the potential environmental impacts of their projects. Consideration of these impacts on the location, design, or construction actions may help avoid expensive costs. A project will not be eligible for funding if it results in significant environmental degradation.

DNRC requires compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) per state law and associated DNRC Administrative Rules (ARM 36.2.523). MEPA requires state agencies to prepare a detailed statement on any project, program, or activity directly undertaken by the agency; a project or activity supported through a contract, grant, subsidy, loan, or other form of funding assistance from the agency; and a project or activity involving the issuance of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use or permission by the agency (MCA Title 75, Chapter 1). Thus, all project applications will be subject to MEPA review.

What Does This Mean for Applicants?

- ☐ All applicants must complete the Environmental Checklist in its entirety and provide sufficient documentation on public participation.
- ☐ Public participation, or scoping, of the project must include stakeholder, landowner, and community engagement. These efforts can be in the form of documented public meetings (e.g., meeting minutes, pdf presentations) or letters of support.
  - The public meeting must be properly noticed (advertised) and the public must be provided with an opportunity at the meeting to comment on the project.
  - Minutes of the meeting should reflect what was discussed about the project, including all comments received from the public.
  - Letters of support must be included from any identified or interested stakeholders.
- ☐ Agency Comment Letters (see instructions below)
- ☐ Please submit these items with your application.
- ☐ Provide Affidavit of Publication or Meeting Minutes for the public comment period notice on the draft EA

How Will DNRC Use the Information Provided?

The information provided within the Environmental Checklist will be subject to a MEPA review by DNRC. If this review should result in an Environmental Assessment, please be aware that DNRC will draft the Environmental Assessment. The drafted Environmental Assessment decision will be posted for a public comment period of up to 30 days dependent on the level of environmental impact.

When the draft EA is posted, we require the project proponent to post the notice in either one local newspaper outlet in the legal advertising section or provide the notice during a publicly held meeting. The applicant must then provide the affidavit of publication if posted in the newspaper or meeting minutes if discussed in a public meeting. Please note this public comment period does not suffice for the public participation component mentioned above. The MEPA document will then require a final decision by DNRC before funds are awarded.

It is also important to note for projects with no environmental impacts, or those that do not lead directly to construction or any other sort of environmental degradation, will not be subject to an environmental assessment and the checklist/public participation does not need to be completed. Examples of these sorts of activities include, but are not limited to, development of a PER (professional engineering report), planning, and education/informational outreach. Please let us know if there are additional questions on what other projects may fall under this category.

Instructions:

Complete the Environmental Checklist on the following pages after the instructions below. DNRC retains the ultimate decision-making authority on all MEPA decisions. If DNRC determines this section to be incomplete, additional information will be required before consideration for funding.

Example			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	*Current Conditions:* *Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:*

1. **Impact Code:** In the first column, identify the impact that the preferred alternative will have on each resource (e.g. 1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints) in the project area. Select from the following impact codes:
   - *No Impact*: No impact to the resource is anticipated or this is not applicable to this project.
   - *Beneficial*: Potentially beneficial impact to the resource.
   - *Adverse*: Potentially adverse impact to the resource.

   Please note that a resource may have more than one impact. Identify all possible impacts to the resource in the space provided. For example, the preferred alternative may have a short-term direct negative impact and a long-term direct and indirect positive impact on the resource. Check all boxes that apply and use the space provided in the final column "Explanation of Impact to Resource" to explain.

Example			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**

1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	*Current Conditions:* *Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:*

2. **Impact Type:** In the second column, identify the type(s) of impact to the resource from the preferred alternative. (Impacts may be direct, indirect or cumulative).
    - *Direct impacts*: Occur at the same time and place as the proposed project.
    - *Indirect or secondary impacts*: Occur at a different location or later time than the proposed project.
    - *Cumulative impacts*: Collective impacts on the environment when considered in conjunction with other past, present, and future actions related to the proposed project. Cumulative impact analysis includes a review of all state and nonstate activities that have occurred, are occurring, or may occur that have impacted or may impact the same resource as the proposed project.

    Just as above, please note that a resource may have more than one impact. Identify all possible impacts to the resource in the space provided. For example, the preferred alternative may have a short-term direct negative impact and a long-term direct and indirect positive impact on the resource. Check all boxes that apply and use the space provided in the final column "Explanation of Impact to Resource" to explain.

Example			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	*Current Conditions:* *Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:*

3. **Permits/Mitigation Required:** In the third column, please select if a permit and/or mitigation is required for the project (e.g., 310, USACE Section 404 Nationwide).
    - Please make sure to include which permits (if any) are required for the particular resource and what mitigation techniques will be used if impacts are to occur.

Example			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**

1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

4. **Explanation of Impact to Resource:** In the final column, use the space provided on the Environmental Checklist to summarize the following information:
    - ***Current Conditions***
        - Describe the current environmental resources of the affected area including the impact of no action. Your description of the current natural resources will provide a baseline to compare all alternatives and their associated environmental impacts.
    - ***Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:***
        - Describe the impact of the preferred alternative or ***indicate why there is no impact*** from the project.
        - Identify any reasonable cumulative impacts that may result from implementing the preferred alternative. Cumulative impacts are the collective impacts on the environment when considered in conjunction with other past, present, and future actions related to the proposed project.
        - If a potentially adverse impact is identified for the preferred alternative, the applicant must provide the following:
            - An analysis of the severity, duration, extent, and frequency of the impact. Please specify and describe the following:
                - Severity: negligible, minor, or major.
                - Duration: short-term or long-term.
                - Extent: local, regional, or statewide.
                - Frequency: non-recurring or recurring.
            - An explanation of short- and/or long-term measures to mitigate the impact with a discussion on the effects of those mitigative measures on the proposed project.
        - Identify any required permits.

5. **Additional Information:** Underneath the table the following information must be provided:
    - Cultural Survey Acknowledgement
    - Sources of Information: Identify all sources consulted for the completion of the Environmental Checklist. Sources may include studies, plans, documents, or the persons, organizations, or agencies contacted for assistance.

Certain sections of this Environmental Checklist require specialized knowledge. Please contact the following agencies and attach comments provided by those agencies to your application. Below are contacts for certain sections that require additional review by other agencies:

- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #5*** **– Surface Water Quality** – Montana Department of Environmental Quality, (406) 444 - 3080.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #6*** **– Floodplains and Floodplain Management** – Contact the Local Floodplain Administrator for your County and/or Community

(http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/floodplain-management/contacts/20210924FPAs2021.1.pdf) or visit the Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Division, (406) 444 – 0860, http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/floodplain-management.

- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #7*** **– Wetlands** – U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, (406) 441 - 1375 or montana.reg@usace.army.mil.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #9*** **– Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats** – Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Office (406) 444 - 2612 or find your Regional Office at https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/contact-us.
- *Physical Environment,* ***Section #10*** **– Unique, Endangered, Fragile or Limited Environmental Resources** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consultation on potential impacts to endangered or limited plants, fish, or other wildlife, (406) 449 - 5225.
- *Human Environment,* ***Section #4*** **– Historic Properties, Cultural or Archaeological Resources –** Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), (406) 444 - 7767 or dmurdo@mt.gov.

For assistance in preparing the Environmental Checklist, contact DNRC grant manager listed on grant application.

Environmental Checklist

Environmental Checklist Prepared by: On: 11/29/2022

Camille Johnson, PE	TD&H Engineering
Name of Person 1 406-761-3010	Organization camille.johnson@tdhengineering.com
Phone Number Kristen Martinez	Email Power-Teton County Water & Sewer District
Name of Person 2 406-781-5811	Organization powerwaterandsewer@gmail.com
Phone Number	Email

Click or tap here to enter text.

List additional people above. Include organization, phone number and email for all.

Physical Environment			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Permits/ Mitigation Required?**	**Explanation of Impact to Resource**
1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project will not affect soil suitability, topography, or geology. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Hazardous Facilities (example: power lines, hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities and propane storage tanks)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The project will not affect hazardous facilities. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Surrounding Air Quality (example: dust, odors, emissions)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☒ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Existing air quality is generally not affected by the water and sewer infrastructure. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Temporary dust from construction may impact air quality during the activity, but will not be sustained. Air quality will return to normal after construction stops.
4. Groundwater Resources and Aquifers (example: quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: The lift station forcemain failed and was leaking raw sewage into the surrounding soil which could have contaminated the local aquifer. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The District repaired the forcemain so it no longer leaks and the aquifer is no longer at risk.
5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity and Distribution (example: streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The District uses a diversion dam in Muddy Creek to help convey water to the WTP. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Floodplains and Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There are no delineated floodplains in the project vicinity according to FEMA mapping and the Flood Insurance Study. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Wetlands (Identify any wetlands within one mile of the boundary of the project and state potential impacts.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☒Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: The NWI indicates there may be freshwater emergent wetlands in the drainage which flows north to south through the Power townsite. A 2021 wetland delineation, performed by TD&H Engineering, identified wetlands adjacent to Muddy Creek by the water treatment plant. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: No wetland impacts are anticipated with the project; however, if any project activities occur in potential wetland areas, then a USACE 404 Permit and 401 Certification would be procured. Impacts would be temporary as any disturbed areas would be restored to pre-construction condition by salvaging wetland topsoil and reseeding as necessary.
8. Agricultural Lands, Production, and Farmland Protection (example: grazing, forestry, cropland, prime or unique agricultural lands) Identify any prime or important farm ground or forest lands within one mile of the boundary of the project.			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: No agricultural lands are present in the project areas. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
9. Vegetation and Wildlife Species and Habitats, Including Fish (example: terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (example: plants, fish or wildlife)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
11. Unique Natural Features (example: geologic features)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: There are no unique natural features present around existing District infrastructure. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational and Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways (including Federally Designated Wild & Scenic Rivers), and Public Open Space			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
Human Environment			
Impact Code	**Impact Type**	**Resource**	

1. Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Nuisances (example: glare, fumes)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Noise – Suitable Separation Between Housing and Other Noise Sensitive Activities and Major Noise Sources (example: aircraft, highways and railroads.)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☒ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Noise is not an existing nuisance from District infrastructure. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Temporary noise may be generated from construction equipment, but would cease after the repairs are complete and would likely only occur during business hours.
4. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources ***(Please see end of Environmental Checklist for details if Cultural Survey has not been performed per SHPO Section 106)*			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: According to the SHPO file search, no historic or cultural impacts are anticipated. The SHPO results are attached. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Changes in Demographic (Population) Characteristics (example: quantity, distribution, density)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
6. General Housing Conditions – Quality, Quantity, Affordability			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Businesses or Residents (example: loss of, displacement, or relocation)			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project improvements will provide safer and more reliable water and sewer service to the residents and businesses of Power.
8. Public Health and Safety			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project improvements will provide safer and more reliable water and sewer service to the residents and businesses of Power.

9. Local Employment – Quantity or Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
10. Income Patterns – Economic Impact			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
11. Local and State Tax Base and Revenues			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
12. Community and Government Services and Facilities (example: educational facilities; health and medical services and facilities; police; emergency medical services; and parks, playgrounds and open space)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
13. Commercial and Industrial Facilities – Production and Activity, Growth or Decline			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
14. Social Structures and Mores (example: standards of social conduct/social conventions)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
15. Land Use Compatibility (example: growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
16. Energy Resources – Consumption and Conservation			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
17. Solid Waste Management			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The PTCWSD does not operate any solid waste management facilities. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

18. Wastewater Treatment – Sewage System			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☐ NA	Current Conditions: The lift station forcemain had failed, so the pumps could not operate. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project repaired the forcemain so the lift station was operational
19. Storm Water – Surface Drainage			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: PTCWSD does not manage a stormwater system in Power. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
20. Community Water Supply			
☐ No Impact ☒ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☒ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: The water system suffered various failures and issues in the distribution and treatment systems which affected water availability and reliability. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will result in a safer and more reliable water supply and distribution system for Power.
21. Fire Protection – Hazards			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
22. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
23. Transportation Networks and Traffic Flow Conflicts (example: rail; auto including local traffic; airport runway clear zones – avoidance of incompatible land use in airport runway clear zones)			
☐ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☒ Adverse	☒ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Traffic is not usually impacted by the PTCWSD infrastructure. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Temporary impacts to auto traffic may occur for repairs located in public roads; detours would be temporary and limited to only disturbed areas. After construction is complete, no impacts to traffic would occur.
24. Consistency with Local Ordinances, Resolutions, or Plans (example: conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning, or capital improvement plans.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

25. Private Property Rights (example: a regulatory action or project activity that reduces, minimizes, or eliminates the use of private property.)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: District infrastructure is located in public right-of-way or on District property. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
26. Environmental Justice (example: does the project avoid placing lower income households in areas where environmental degradation has occurred, such as adjacent to brownfield sites?)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: Click or tap here to enter text. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.
27. Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos (example: does the project replace asbestos-lined pipes? Do any structures qualify as containing lead-based paint?)			
☒ No Impact ☐ Beneficial ☐ Adverse	☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Cumulative	☐Permit ☐Mitigation ☒ NA	Current Conditions: No asbestos or lead-based paint disturbances are anticipated with the repairs. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional Information

****If no cultural survey has been performed, or is not expected to be needed, applicant must agree to the following statement:**

☒ I hereby agree that, to my knowledge, there are no cultural or paleontological materials in the proposed project site. If previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, the DNRC grant manager will be notified, and all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

List all sources of information used to complete the Environmental Checklist. Sources may include studies, plans, documents, or the individuals, organizations, or agencies contacted for assistance. For individuals, groups, or agencies, please include a contact person and phone number. List any scoping documents or meetings and/or public meetings during project development.

Project locations and descriptions of work from PTCWSD personnel.
FEMA Flood Insurance Study for Teton County and Unincorporated Areas, January 1983
National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper
Power Final Wetland Delineation Report, June 2021
SHPO File Search Request Results

Below is a list of electronic resources available for data gathering to aid in the development of the Environmental Checklist:

Abandoned Mines (DEQ): https://deq.mt.gov/cleanupandrec/Programs/aml

Agricultural Statistics (USDA): USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - Data and Statistics

Air Quality

- Nonattainment Areas: Plan and Rule Development | Montana DEQ (mt.gov)
- Opening Burning Guidelines: Open Burning | Montana DEQ (mt.gov)

Army Corps of Engineers: http://www.usace.army.mil/Home.aspx

Bureau of Business and Economic Research, UM: http://www.bber.umt.edu/

Cadastral (for property ownership info): http://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral

Census Information, MT Dept. of Commerce: http://ceic.mt.gov

Conservation Districts, MT: http://macdnet.org/

Cultural Records

- Montana Historical Society: https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/CulturalRecords

DEQ data search tools: Montana DEQ's GIS Portal (mt.gov)

- Including Clean Water Act Info Center, Hazardous Waste Handlers, Petroleum Release Fund Claims, Unpermitted Releases, Underground Storage Tanks, Source Water Protection

EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online http://echo.epa.gov/

Farmland Classification: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

Fish (Also See Wildlife)

- Montana Fisheries Information System: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks GIS Data (arcgis.com)
- Aquatic Invasive Species: Montana FWP AIS Surveys Dashboard 2021 (arcgis.com)

Floodplain Maps, FEMA: https://msc.fema.gov/portal

Geographic Information, Natural Resources Information System: http://nris.mt.gov/gis

Geologic Information - MBMG - Publications - Download Geologic Maps (mtech.edu)

Maps of Montana for species observations, land cover, wetland and riparian areas, land management: Montana Natural Heritage Program (mtnhp.org); http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/?t=6

Montana Department of Transportation: https://www.mdt.mt.gov/

- Environmental Manual: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/manuals/env/preface.pdf
- Environmental Manual - Chapter 29, Permits Required: https://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/manuals/env/Chapter%2029%20PERMITS%20REQUIRED.pdf

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Information System:

- http://bogc.dnrc.mt.gov/webApps/DataMiner/

Plants

- Plant database, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: http://plants.usda.gov/java
- Plant Species, MT Field Guide: http://fieldguide.mt.gov/default.aspx

- Plant Species of Concern: http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/Default.aspx?AorP=p
- Threatened, Endangered and Rare Plants, USDA: https://plants.usda.gov/home/raritySearch

Soils

- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service database: https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/
- Montana soil and water conservation districts: http://swcdmi.org/

State Historic Preservation Office: http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo

Tourism, UM – Institute of Tourism & Recreation Research: http://www.itrr.umt.edu

Tribal Resources:

- Blackfeet Tribal Environmental Permits: http://www.blackfeetenvironmental.com
- CSKT Natural Resources Department: http://nrd.csktribes.org/
- Montana Office of Indian Affairs: http://tribalnations.mt.gov/
- Tribal Historic Preservation Officer List: Search - NATHPO
- Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT): https://egis.hud.gov/tdat/

Vehicle Traffic Count (MDT): http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/traffic.shtml

Water

- Stream Record Extension Facilitator, USGS: USGS | National Water Dashboard
- Streamstats basin characteristics, USGS: http://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats/
- Water Resources Division, DNRC: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water ; ArcGIS Web Application (mt.gov)
- Water Rights Bureau, DNRC: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/water-rights
- Water Right Query System, DNRC: DNRC Water Right Query System (mt.gov)
- Wetlands database, USFWS: http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/mapper.html

Wild and Scenic Rivers: http://www.rivers.gov/montana.php

Wildlife

- Animal Species, MT Field Guide: http://fieldguide.mt.gov/default.aspx
- Animal Species of Concern: http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/Default.aspx?AorP=a
- Aquatic Invasive Species: Montana FWP AIS Surveys Dashboard 2021 (arcgis.com)
- Critical Habitat Mapper, USFWS: http://ecos.fws.gov/crithab/
- Crucial Areas Planning System/Habitat Assessment Tool: Habitat MT (HB 526) Funded Lands (arcgis.com)

- FWP Contact Map: http://fwp.mt.gov/gis/maps/contactUs/ (includes biologist responsibility areas)
- Maps and GIS Data, FWP: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks GIS Data (arcgis.com)
- Sage grouse management, FWP: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks GIS Data : Sage-grouse Habitat/Current Distribution (Montana) : Sage-grouse Habitat/Current Distribution (Montana) (arcgis.com)
- Sage grouse habitat conservation program, DNRC: http://sagegrouse.mt.gov/
- Sage grouse habitat map: https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/ProgramMap

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Casazza Irrigation Improvement Project
July 2022
Eric Casazza
48.879097, -115.012775
Lincoln

PURPOSE AND NEED

Eric Casazza, a producer from Eureka, Lincoln County, Montana is proposing an irrigation improvement project that will install water delivery pipe and a headgate in an existing ditch located in the Section 18, T36N R26W. The current condition of the ditch is such that most of the water that enters the ditch seeps out and results in the saturation of the adjacent soils. The loss of the water also requires the producer to divert additional water to ensure adequate water is delivered to the field for crop production. The producer proposes to start the project with purchasing the pipe in the summer/fall of 2022 and complete the project in the spring of 2023. Upon completion of this project, the land adjacent to the seeping segment of ditch will return to a grazing rotation and the existing irrigated acres will see an increase in crop production with the application of timely and adequate water.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Casazza Irrigation Improvement Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

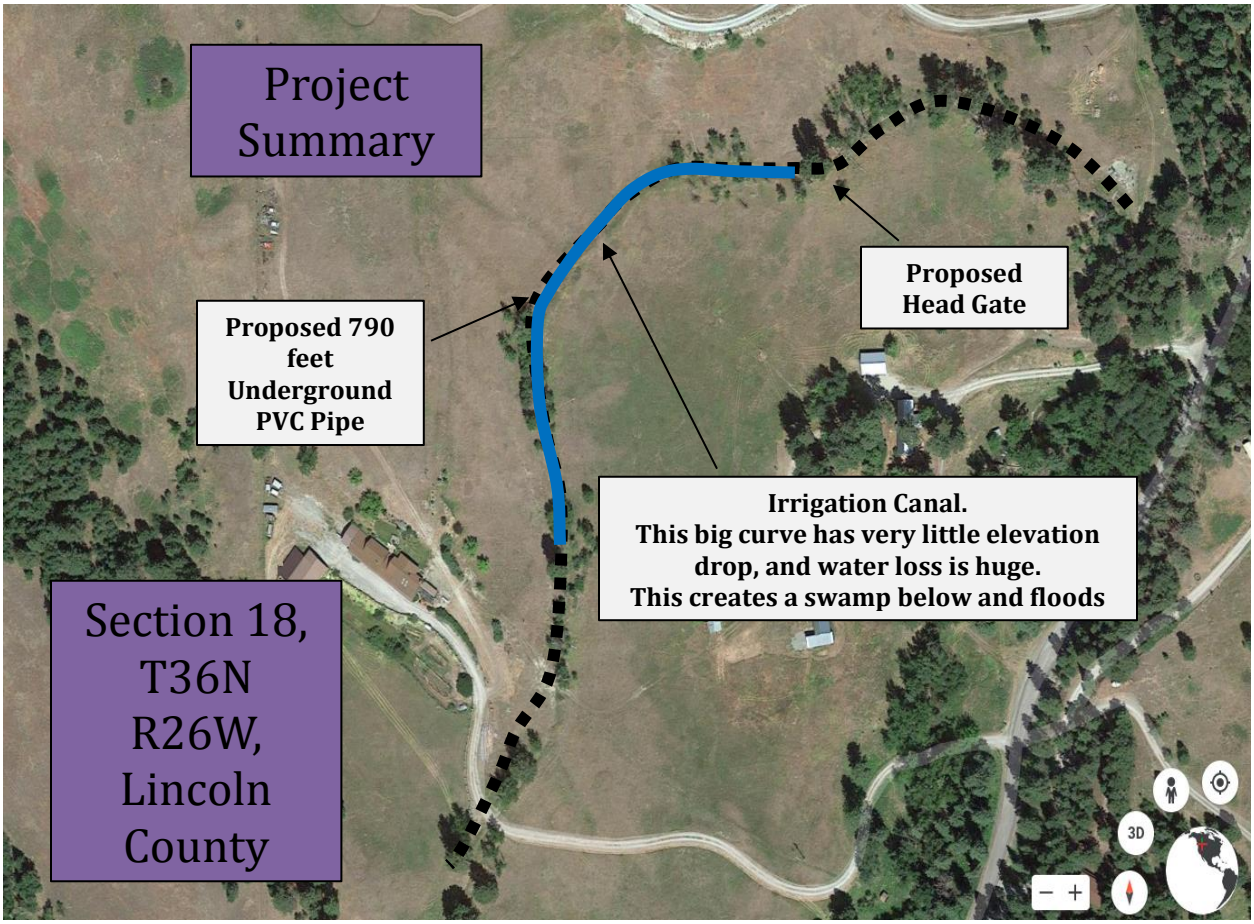
☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Ann L Kulczyk **Title:** Grant Manager **Email:** akulczyk@mt.gov	**Date:**	12/09/2022

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman **Title:** Bureau Chief	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 877FC22FC8364A1...	**Date**: 12/29/2022 | 2:56:05 PM MST	



DNRC CARDD DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name: Casazza Irrigation Improvement Project

Brief Description: Open ditch to pipeline conversion with headgate installation

Agreement Number: IDG-23-0298A

Date: 12/9/2022

Preparer: Ann L. Kulczyk

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation action under 36.17.614, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer and septic systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems, dams, culverts, headgates, canal lining, siphons, pipelines, pump sites, lift stations, irrigation infrastructure, that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. Yes - Minor upgrading; or
2. No - Minor expansion of system capacity; or
3. Yes - Rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components; or
4. No - Construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
5. No - Projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges; or
6. No - Use of sampling and monitoring wells to test for the presence of contaminants such as, but not limited to, metals and petroleum; or
7. No - Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning studies, scientific research and analysis, surveys, or engineering.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

1. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

2. No - The action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

3. No - The action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

4. No - The action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

5. No - The action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

6. No - The department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

7. No - The department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 36.2.524, or might possibly affect:

    (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
    (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items below as follows:

[Once all steps are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

1. Yes - Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

2. Yes - DNRC determination of Categorical Exclusion.

3. Choose an item. - DNRC distributes the Notice of Determination.

4. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

5. Choose an item. - Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

1. Choose an item. - The project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

2. Choose an item. - The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

3. Choose an item. - New evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

4. Choose an item. - State, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

Ann L. Kulczyk

DNRC CARD Division STATE PREPARER

Samantha Treu MEPA Coordinator

DNRC CARD Division STATE REVIEWER

12/28/2022 | 9:53:57 PM MST

COMPLETION DATE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Dam Safety Improvements
October 19, 2022
Feathered Pipe Foundation
46.5274 Latitude, -112.1682 Longitude
Lewis and Clark County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose and need include:

1. Dam Safety Improvements
    a. Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam
    b. Embankment seepage and regulation of dam's maximum pool level
    c. Located in Colorado Gulch on Bear Creek
    d. Assessment was done in June of 2021 and safety improvements completed in October of 2022
    e. Improve dam safety by preventing overtopping and seepage

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances

Prepared By:	**Name:** Sonja Hoeglund **Title:** Grant Manager **Email:** shoeglund@mt.gov	**Date:**	12/07/2022

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman **Title:** Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836401...	**Date**:	12/8/2022 | 3:58:31 PM MST

FEATHERED PIPE RANCH DAM PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT

Prepared for:

FEATHERED PIPE FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 1682
HELENA, MT 59601

Prepared by:

NORTH WIND INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY, LLC
1065 N. EWING
HELENA, MT 59601

JUNE 15, 2021

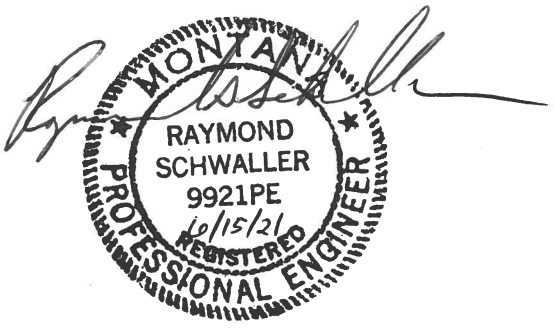
FEATHERED PIPE RANCH DAM
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT

JUNE 2021

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and I am a duly licensed Registered Professional Engineer under the laws of the State of Montana.

Raymond G. Schwaller, P.E.
Certificate Number 9921PE



STANDARD OF CARE

Services performed by the engineers and scientists for this project have been conducted in a manner consistent with that level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the profession currently practicing in this area under similar budget and time constraints. This is our professional responsibility. No warranty expressed or implied is made.

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Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam Preliminary Engineering Assessment

Table of Contents

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose and Scope

North Wind Infrastructure & Technology, LLC (NWI&T) was contracted by the Feathered Pipe Foundation on April 9, 2021 to perform a preliminary engineering assessment of their dam and prepare the following report. Although the dam is not classified as a high hazard potential dam, the inspection procedures and reporting generally follow the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) Section 36.14.601 - 36.14.603 as guidance. This preliminary engineering assessment focusses on best management practices for operating and maintaining the dam. It does not include detailed analyses for downstream hazards based on a sudden breach; hydrologic studies; spillway capacity; seismic stability; or other detailed evaluations. Some basic slope stability and spillway capacity assessments are presented as baseline information.

Dam Location and Description

The Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam is located within Colorado Gulch on Bear Creek in the mountains near Helena in Lewis and Clark County, Montana. It is accessed from U.S. Highway 12 about 3.5 miles west of Helena by turning south on Colorado Gulch Road and traveling approximately 4 miles to the Feathered Pipe Ranch.

The dam is an earthfill dam of low to moderate height, varying from about 8 to 23 feet. The dam is unclassified and impounds a small pond (<2 acres). The dam is relatively long (about 450 feet) and bends near the center, so the downstream side appears to be somewhat concave. The critical section (i.e., steepest slope) is located about 180 feet from the left (southwest) abutment. The dam northeast of the bend is wider with a flatter downstream embankment and right (northeast) abutment. The southwest abutment also has a relatively flat slope in comparison with the critical section. The upstream slopes are mostly covered with grass, cattails, and a few willows, and the downstream embankment and abutments have a moderately dense tree cover. The crest is somewhat uneven in elevation and generally has a grass surface with a two-track road.

It appears that there are two abandoned spillways on the dam. A large concrete manhole with a steel cover is located on the upper upstream slope about 30 feet right (northeast) of the critical section. A smaller square concrete box on the upper upstream slope is located about 30 feet left (southwest) of the 18-inch diameter HDPE auxiliary spillway pipe.

Based on limited field measurements and other readily available data, Table 1 provides a summary of information for the Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam and pond.

Background Information

The current owner reports that the dam was constructed after World War II and completed in the 1950's. The Rheem family (i.e., founders of the Rheem Manufacturing Company) owned the ranch at the time and created the pond for recreational purposes. The dam operator and area residents report the dam was constructed using onsite earth fill from the pond and surrounding area, and that both the pond and upstream slope of the dam are lined with bentonite. The dam

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF DAM INFORMATION

1. GENERAL

Federal ID No.	None
Owner/Operator	Feathered Pipe Foundation, under lease from private owners
Date Constructed	circa 1950's (completion date unknown)
Purpose…..	Recreation
Location….	northeast corner of Section 24, T9N, R5W Principal Montana Meridian
County, State	Lewis and Clark County, Montana
Watershed	Bear Creek, tributary to Tenmile Creek within Missouri River Basin
Dam Classification	Unclassified
USGS Quadrangle	Black Mountain

2. POND

Surface Area	Approx. 1.5 Acres at Spillway Crest
Drainage Area…..	Approx. 2.5 Square Miles
Storage at Spillway Crest	Est. 18 Acre-feet
Storage at Dam Crest	Est. 22 Acre-feet
Surcharge Storage	Est. 4 Acre-feet

3. DAM

Type……..	Homogeneous earthfill with bentonite-lined upstream slope
Length…..	450 ft.
Crest Width	Varies, 11.5 ft. to 20 ft.
Crest Elevation	Approx. 4,940 ft. NGVD
Maximum Hydraulic Height (Crest to Toe)	22.8 ft.
Upstream Slope	Varies with 4(H):1(V) measured on upper part of slope
Downstream Slope	Varies from 3(H):1(V) to 1.5(H):1(V)

4. PRINCIPAL SPILLWAY

Conduit	One 24-inch-diameter HDPE pipe
Conduit length	31 ft.
Relative Invert Elevation (upstream)	2.6 feet below dam crest
Control…..	No valve, but water level can be elevated with check boards
Capacity with Reservoir at Dam Crest	18 cfs

5. AUXILIARY SPILLWAY

Type…….	Two pipe conduits (20"x28" elliptical CMP and 18" diameter HDPE)
Relative Invert Elevation (upstream)	1.6 feet below dam crest
Capacity with Reservoir at Dam Crest	15 cfs

and reservoir are owned by the four owners of the Feathered Pipe Ranch and operated by the Feathered Pipe Foundation. The Feathered Pipe Foundation leases the Ranch in its entirety though a long-term lease. Mr. Eric Myers is the Foundation's point of contact.

INSPECTION

A site walk was made in November 2020 and a full inspection was completed in 2021. The following sections describe the inspection and observations. Field reports are included in Appendix A and photographs are provided electronically on a compact disc (CD) enclosed in Appendix C.

Onsite Dam Inspections

A complete engineer's inspection was performed by Ray Schwaller, P.E. of NWI&T on May 5, 2021. Also present for the inspection were Feathered Pipe Ranch representatives Eric Myers and Matt Lambie. During this inspection, the pond level was approximately 2.1 feet below the dam crest elevation. The dam embankments, crest, abutments, and downstream toe areas were thoroughly checked by visual inspection. An inspection of the outlet works and spillways (i.e., concrete, pipes, etc.) was also completed. An elevations survey was completed to define the dam critical section and determine the relative invert elevations of the outlet and spillway pipes. A follow-up survey was completed on June 2, 2021 to check the dam crest elevations.

Field Observations

Onsite staff indicate that water levels at the Feathered Pipe Ranch pond remain relatively constant throughout the year, with somewhat higher levels during spring runoff. The inspection was completed at a time when the pond was at its normal pool level.

View of the dam crest from northeast end.

Dam Crest, Embankments, and Abutments: No sand boils, sinkholes, sloughing, cracking or other indications of embankment instability were found during this inspection. There is no evidence of seepage on the downstream embankment and left (southwest) abutment. The upstream embankment is well-vegetated with no significant erosion. The downstream embankment's surface is somewhat uneven, but there is no indication of recent erosion, sloughing, or settlement. There is no evidence of rodent activity on the crest, embankments, and abutments; the dam has not been damaged by burrowing animals.

As noted in the introduction, the dam crest bends near the center and the right (northeast) half of the dam has a downstream slope that is approximately half as steep as the critical section - about 3(H):1(V) in comparison with 1.5(H):1(V).

Embankment Seepage: Although no seeps were found on the downstream embankment critical section, seepage areas were observed on the lower downstream embankment at the right half of the dam and in the downstream toe area near the critical section. The nearest seep was about 20 feet left (facing downstream) of the critical dam section and 10 feet away from the downstream embankment toe. There was no measurable quantity of water flowing from the seep areas, they were mainly wet marshy areas with little standing water. Seepage in the right (northeast) abutment cannot be assessed because the principal spillway discharges through that location.

Surface Vegetation: The dam crest and upstream slopes are generally well-maintained and most of the vegetation consists of shallow-rooted plants and grasses. The downstream slope is covered with trees including firs, pines, and aspens, as well as willows and shrubs. The trees have the greatest density at the critical section of the downstream embankment.

Trees on downstream embankment at critical section.

Spillways: The principal spillway consists of a 24-inch diameter dual-wall HDPE pipe. It is 31 feet long, has a slope of 5.2%, and an invert elevation that is 2.6 feet below the dam crest at the critical section. The inlet consists of a short channel lined with stone masonry. The pipe entrance is typically uncontrolled but the pool level can be elevated by stacking check boards in front of the pipe entrance. There are steel channels on either side of the pipe entrance that serve as guides for the check boards. The auxiliary spillway consists of two pipes – an elliptical 22”x28” CMP and an 18-inch diameter dual-wall HDPE pipe. They are 40 and 20 feet long, respectively, and each have slopes near 4% and uncontrolled entrances protruding into the upstream embankment. Both have an inlet elevation that is approximately 1.6 feet below the critical dam section crest.

Inlet to principal spillway.

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Hydrology and Hydraulics

The basin area above the pond that captures snowmelt and stormwater runoff is approximately 2.5 square miles. Site-specific precipitation data is not available. Statewide maps indicate that the average annual precipitation is in the range of 20 to 30 inches per year. The nearby town of Rimini, Montana, has an average annual precipitation of 20.25 inches for the period of record.

The USGS provides some regression equations that can be used to determine peak stream discharges in Western Montana based on annual precipitation and site-specific basin characteristics. The peak discharges are associated with recurrence intervals (i.e., return years).

For the Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam, the peak stream discharges at various annual precipitation rates are shown on Table 1.

Table 1. Peak Stream Discharge at Various Annual Precipitation Rates

Precipitation / Discharge	20 inches	25 inches	30 inches
Q_{10}, 10-yr Peak	21.3 cfs	28.2 cfs	35.4 cfs
Q_{25}, 25-yr Peak	30.1 cfs	38.8 cfs	47.7 cfs
Q_{50}, 50-yr Peak	37.5 cfs	47.8 cfs	58.3 cfs
Q_{100}, 100-yr Peak	45.5 cfs	57.6 cfs	69.9 cfs
Q_{200}, 200-yr Peak	53.7 cfs	67.7 cfs	81.8 cfs
Q_{500}, 500-yr Peak	66.6 cfs	83.6 cfs	100.7 cfs

As noted earlier, the principal and auxiliary spillways consist of three pipes. The pipe flow capacities at a pool level that matches the minimum dam crest elevation are shown on Table 2.

Table 2. Minimum Spillway Pipe Capacities at Maximum Pool Level

Pipe	Type	U.S. Invert Elev. Below Dam Crest	Capacity
Principal Spillway	24-inch HDPE	2.65 ft	18 cfs
Auxiliary Spillway	22”x28” Elliptical CMP	1.56 ft	8 cfs
Auxiliary Spillway	18-inch CMP	1.59 ft	7 cfs
TOTAL	(all pipes)	(varies)	33 cfs

Note that Table 2 shows the minimum pipe capacities. The auxiliary spillway pipes are very close to the dam crest, and therefore do not develop their potential capacities due to low pressure head. Based on Tables 1 and 2, an overtopping event could occur within every 25 years. Area residents report that the dam has overtopped at least once since construction (in the 1980’s), with the pool level only inches above the crest for a short period of time.

Maximum Pool Level and Freeboard

The dam’s maximum pool level is currently unregulated, but checked to a certain extent by the auxiliary spillway pipes. The dam crest elevation is lower in the center than at the abutments. The left abutment is about 0.2 feet above the center crest, and the right abutment crest near the principal spillway pipe is about 1.4 feet higher than the center. Freeboard at the center is roughly 2 feet above the normal pool elevation; however, when water is flowing in the auxiliary spillway pipes the freeboard will be at 1.5 feet or less.

Two modifications are recommended to improve the auxiliary spillway and dam crest freeboard, as follows:

1. Excavate a wide, shallow surface spillway at the right side of the dam (between the existing auxiliary spillway pipes) where the crest is wide and downstream embankment has a relatively gentle slope.
2. Place and compact road mix gravel on the crest extending from the auxiliary spillway area to the left abutment.

Design of the exact materials, dimensions, and elevations for the recommended modifications is outside of the scope of this report. However, relatively small improvements will provide considerably greater spillway capacity in the event of a large flood event.

Preliminary Stability Analysis

The stability of the dam’s embankments, abutments, and related features is very important to overall safety. Because of that, a preliminary assessment was completed to evaluate the critical section slope stability. The assessment included visual examination of the onsite dam embankment materials, laboratory testing of one soil sample, and slope stability modeling using estimated soil strength parameters and an inferred phreatic surface (i.e., subsurface water table profile). The assumptions used for modeling are based on NWI&T’s experience with similar projects combined with site-specific visual observations.

The slope stability analysis indicates the factor of safety at the critical section may be adequate for a small dam with no hazard classification. The minimum calculated factor of safety is 1.25 through a relatively shallow failure surface on the downstream slope. Note that the factor of safety is calculated as the ratio of resisting forces to driving forces, so values less than 1.00 indicate failure and higher values indicate greater stability. Higher factors of safety were computed for catastrophic failures through the dam critical section. For earthfill dams of moderate or high hazard potential, it is generally accepted that a 1.5 minimum factor of safety should be applied to the downstream embankment. A summary of the preliminary slope stability analysis is provided in Appendix B.

Continued monitoring of the dam's condition is recommended. If there are changes that indicate a reduction in stability (i.e., new seeps on the embankment, sand boils, sloughing, etc.), those should be reported to the Engineer for further investigation. Additional evaluations for purposes of improving the factor of safety may be considered; however, those are outside the scope of this preliminary assessment.

Trees

Tree and woody plants have root systems that can be detrimental to a dam. While they appear to stabilize the slopes while living, roots will eventually die and decay. This can cause pathways for water seeping through the dam, and in the worst case may create a catastrophic piping failure. It is recommended that trees should be removed from the steep downstream embankment slopes and within 10 feet of the downstream toe. The removal should include stumps and root systems to the greatest practical extent, and the resulting holes must be backfilled with suitable onsite earthfill materials. Backfill should be placed in thin lifts and thoroughly tamped or otherwise compacted. Upon completion cover the disturbed areas with topsoil and reseed with an upland seed mix appropriate for the climate and location.

Abandoned Systems

There is evidence of two abandoned outlet works systems on the dam, as noted in the introduction to this report. At a site walk in November 2020, the cover was removed from the large manhole and showed that it was filled with water. No investigations have been made of the smaller concrete box, although an 8-inch diameter blue plastic pipe can be seen on the lower downstream embankment in the area.

It is recommended that both of these abandoned features should be further investigated to determine their purpose and current condition. If they have no purpose and will not used in the future, then removal, partial removal, or grouting in place should be considered. If left in place to deteriorate, they may create a potential stability concern in the same manner as pathways from tree roots.

Routine Monitoring and Maintenance

NWI&T recommends the following routine monitoring and maintenance actions:

1. Monitor for and control noxious weeds as they appear on the dam or in the vicinity of the dam.
2. Remove woody plants, including firs, pines, aspen, willows, and other shrubs as they appear on the upstream and downstream embankments, dam crest, and abutments.
3. Monitor for rodent activity and prevent any intrusion by rodents.
4. Annually inspect for erosional damage and repair as needed. Fill any eroded areas and reseed with an appropriate upland seed mix.
5. Keep the spillway pipe entrances clear of trees, branches, rocks and debris, and fill in any erosion (i.e., add riprap) that develops in the spillway discharge area.
6. Monitor seeps (noted in this inspection) in the downstream embankment and toe areas and report any significant changes to the engineer.
7. Reestablish grass on the dam embankments and dam crest, to reclaim all areas disturbed by tree removal, maintenance, and repair activities.
8. Maintain the road on the dam crest such that there are no low spots for water to accumulate and pond.

Future Inspections

If the pool level reaches its maximum capacity (full flow in the principal spillway pipe), the engineer should inspect the dam while it is at this level. Symptoms indicating a reduction in stability, such as emerging springs, seeps, or sand boils must be thoroughly investigated at that time. If a problem is found, the pool level should be immediately lowered to a safe level as determined by the engineer.

Annual inspections conducted by the dam owner are recommended. The inspections should include a review of the listed routine monitoring and maintenance items. It is recommended that an engineer should inspect the dam every 5 years to monitor the conditions described in this report.

If the owner plans any significant repairs, the engineer should be notified. Routine repairs made to the spillway pipes or other dam features may be photographed and documented by the owner, but such information should be forwarded to the engineer for the record.

Report Limitations

Conclusions and recommendations submitted in this report are based upon limited field observations, measurements, tests, and other readily available data. The recommendations provided herein are based on NWI&T's experience with dams and similar projects; however, they are not statutory requirements. Actions taken by the Owner in response to the recommendations may reduce the hazards and associated risks, and avoid unexpected costs that could be incurred as the result of a failure.

REFERENCES

GEO-SLOPE International, Ltd. (2012), *Stability Modeling with SLOPE/W, An Engineering Methodology*, July.

U.S. Department of Transportation (2012), Federal Highway Administration, *Hydraulic Design of Highway Culverts, Third Edition*, Publication No. FHWA-HIF-12-026, April.

U.S. Department of Commerce (2021), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Western Regional Climate Center, historic climate data for Montana, website: https://wrcc.dri.edu/Climate/summaries.php.

U.S. Department of the Interior (2004), U.S. Geological Survey, *Determination of Channel-Morphology Characteristics, Bankfull Discharge, and Various Design-Peak Discharges in Western Montana*, Scientific Investigations Report 2004-5263.

APPENDIX A

FIELD REPORTS

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
DAM SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

NAME OF DAM Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam
DATE INSPECTED May 5, 2021

INVENTORY NO. N/A OWNER Feathered Pipe Ranch
HAZARD CATEGORY N/A OPERATOR FPR Foundation
TYPE OF DAM Earth fill STREAM Bear Creek
YEAR BUILT circa 1950's DRAINAGE AREA 2.5 sq. mi.

Reservoir Storage Status

	Water Surface Elev. (ft)	Storage (acre--ft)
At time of inspection	N/A	Est. 19 acre-ft
At spillway crest	N/A	Est. 18 acre-ft
At min. dam crest elevation	Approx. 4,940 ft,	est. 22 acre-ft
Flashboard crest elevation	N/A	N/A

Primary Inspector: Ray Schwaller, PE

Author of this inspection report: Ray Schwaller, PE

Others present during dam inspection:
Eric Myers and Matt Lambie
(Feathered Pipe Ranch)

General Description of Project (access, release structure overview, other water distribution structures, nearby reservoirs, etc.)

Dam is a small earthfilled dam with a bentonite seal in the pond and upstream embankment. It was built around the 1950's by the Rheem family for recreational purposes. The dam is generally long (~450') with a maximum height of 22.8' at the center. The northeast half is smaller in height and has shallower slopes. Spillways are pipes near the east end. Access is private, on the Feathered Pipe Ranch.

Item	Y	N	Remarks
A. Embankment Crest			
(1) Any visual settlements?		X	
(2) Any misalignments?		X	Crest has horizontal curve near center
(3) Any cracking?		X	
(4) Any traffic damage?	X		Somewhat rutted
(5) Other?	X		Little knapweed
B. Embankment Upstream Face			
(1) Any erosion?	X		1-ft scarp above water level, left ½ of dam
(2) Any longitudinal cracks?		X	
(3) Any transverse cracks?		X	
(4) Is riprap protection adequate?	N/A		Shallow slope
(5) Any stone deterioration?	N/A		
(6) Any visual settlement, sloughing, slumps, depressions or bulges?		X	
(7) Adequate grass cover?	X		Mostly cattails and scattered willows
(8) Debris on the dam face?		X	
(9) Other?			

Item	Y	N	Remarks
C. Embank. Downstream Face			
(1) Any erosion?	X		Hummocky surface, some rills
(2) Any longitudinal cracks?		X	
(3) Any transverse cracks?		X	
(4) Any visual settlement, sloughing, slumps, depressions or bulges?		X	Difficult to see due to trees and uneven surface
(5) Is the toe drain dry?	N/A		
(6) Are the relief wells flowing?	N/A		
(7) Any boils at the toe?		X	
(8) Any seepage areas?	X		Near toe on the right side.
(9) Any traffic or animal damage?		X	
(10) Any burrowing animals?		X	
(11) Adequate grass cover?	X		
(12) Other?	Trees and shrubs on much of the downstream embankment.		

Amount and Type of Vegetation on the Dam

Item	Y	N	Remarks
D. Abutment Contacts			
A) Any erosion?		X	
B) Any visual differential movement?		X	
C) Any cracks?		X	
D) Any seepage present?		X	
E) Other?			
E. Outlet Works – Intake			
(1) Any settlement?		X	
(2) Any tilting?		X	
(3) Do concrete surfaces show:			
a. Spalling?			
b. Cracking?	N/A		
c. Erosion?			
d. Exposed reinforcement?			
(4) Do joints show:			
a. Displacement or offset?			
b. Loss of joint material?			
c. Leakage?			
5) Metal appurtenances – corrosion or breakage			
(6) Trash rack condition good? Anchor system secure?	N/A		No trash racks
(7) Other?	A few small trees present near the principal spillway inlet.		

Item	Y	N	Remarks
F. Outlet Works - Conduit			
(1) Do concrete surfaces show:			
a. Spalling?			
b. Cracking?			
c. Erosion?	N/A		
d. Exposed reinforcement?			
(2) Do joints show:			
a. Displacement or offset?			
b. Loss of joint material?			
c. Leakage?			
(3) Is the conduit metal?			
a. Any corrosion present?			
b. Protective coatings adequate			
(4) Is the conduit misaligned?			
(5) Any calcium deposits?			
(6) Other?			

Item	Y	N	Remarks
G. Gates and Tower			
(1) Gates:			
a. Size: Operating: Emergency: b. Type: Operating: Emergency:			
(2) Controls operational?			
(3) Controls lubricated?			
(4) Operational problems?			
(5) Leakage around gates?			N/A
(6) Condition of gate seals?			
(7) Any cavitation damage? If so, describe?			
(8) Describe air vent-size and condition.			
(9) Jet Pump Condition			
(10) Is the tower dry? ____ wet? ____			
(11) Any seepage in the tower?			
(12) Condition of the tower?			
(13) Any safety problems?			
(14) Condition of the gate house?			
(15) Emergency plan completed for the dam?			
(16) Other?			

Item	Y	N	Remarks
H. Stilling Basin			
(1) Do concrete surfaces show:			
a. Spalling?			
b. Cracking?			
c. Erosion?			
d. Exposed reinforcement?			
(2) Do joints show:			
a. Displacement or offset?			N/A
b. Loss of joint material?			
c. Leakage?			
(3) Do energy dissipaters show:			
a. Signs of deterioration?			
b. Are they covered with debris?			
(4) Other?			

Item	Y	N	Remarks
I. Downstream Channel			
(1) Is the channel: a. Eroding or backcutting? b. Sloughing? c. Obstructed?		X	Channel passes through forested area north of dam.
(2) Is released water: a. Undercutting the outlet? b. Eroding the embankment?		X	
(3) Other			
J. Spillways (principal and auxiliary)			
(1) Location?	Right (NE) end of dam		
(2) Type of Spillway?	3 pipes		
(3) Size of Spillway?	varies, see report		
(4) Description	varies, see report		
(5) Condition of spillway: a. Any spalling concrete? b. Any exposed reinforcement c. Any cracking concrete? d. Any erosion?		X	
(6) Condition of drains"			
(7) Any slope sloughing?			
(8) Any obstructions?		N/A	
(9) Displacement or offset joints?			
(10) Loss of joint material?			
(11) Leakage at the joints?			
(12) Other			

Item	Y	N	Remarks
K. Spillway – Energy Dissipaters			
(1) Signs of deterioration?			
(2) Any cracking?			
(3) Any spalling?`		N/A	
(4) Any exposed reinforcement?			
(5) Are they covered with debris?			
(6) Other?			
L. Spillways - Released Water			
(1) Erosion of the embankment?		X	
(2) Undercutting outlet?		X	
(3) Erosion of downstream channel?		X	Rocky channel
(4) Other?			
M. Reservoir Control			
(1) Recent upstream development?		X	
(2) Recent downstream development?		X	
(3) Slides in reservoir area?		X	
(4) Change in reservoir operation?		X	
(5) Large impoundment upstream?		X	
(6) Any debris in the reservoir?		X	
(7) Other?			

Item	Y	N	Remarks
N. Instrumentation			
(1) List type(s) of instrumentation:			N/A
(2) In good condition?			
(3) Read periodically?			
(4) Is data available?			
(5) Include all data gathered since last report.			
O. Downstream Land Use			
Primarily residences within Colorado Gulch. Nearest is approx. ½ mile from the dam.			
P. Additional Comments and Recommendations			
Address spillway adequacy, trees on downstream embankment, road surface on crest and noxious weeds. Full details provided in written report.			

Additional Comments and Recommendations

Detailed comments and recommendations provided in written report.

APPENDIX B

SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

APPENDIX B – SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

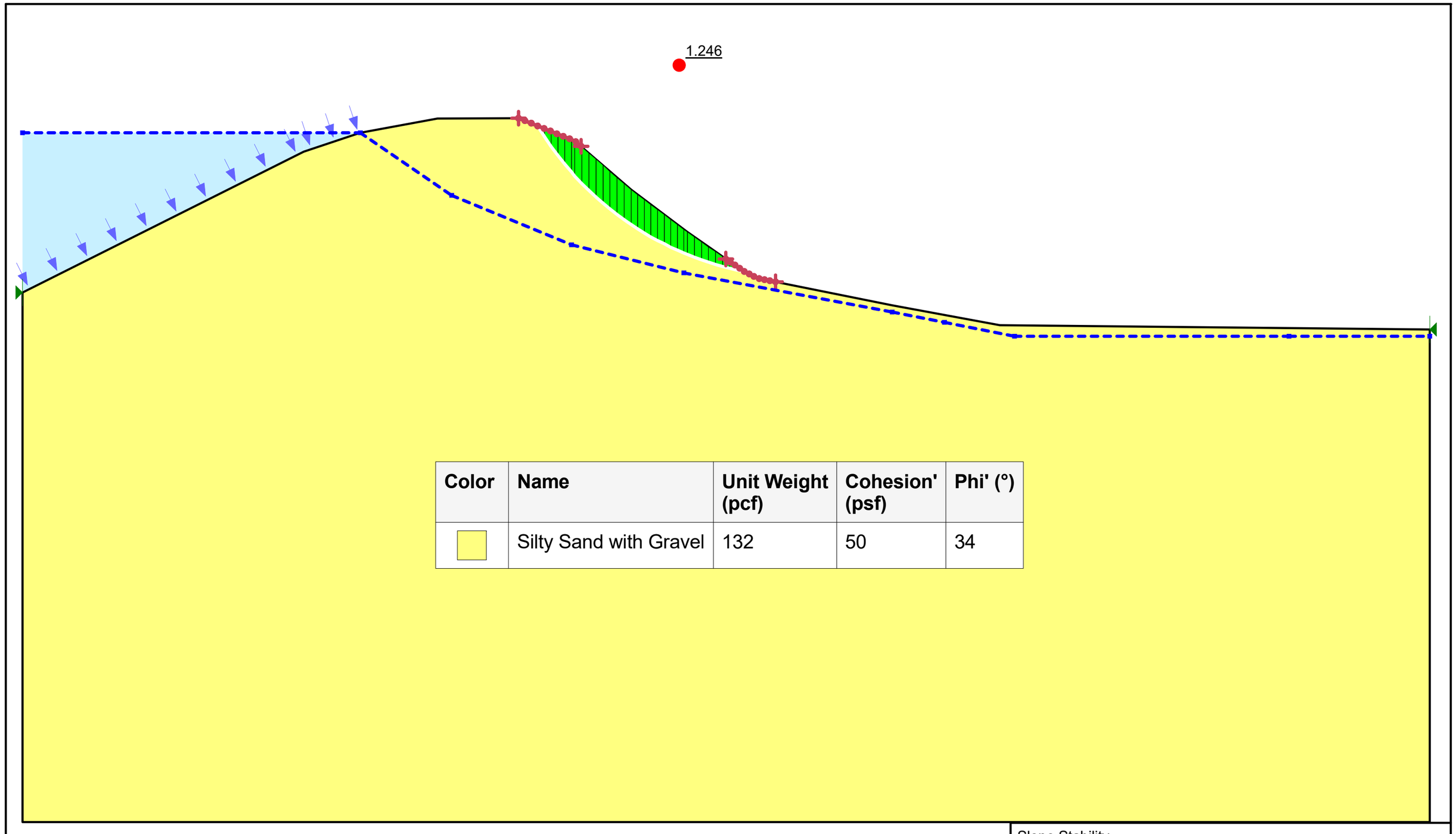
A limited slope stability analysis was completed of the dam's critical section; that is the location where the slope is the steepest and has the greatest height. It occurs about 100 feet left (southwest) of the bend near the center of the dam.

The slope stability analysis was based on:

- Field observations regarding the condition of the slope;
- Observed pool elevation and seepage downstream of the toe;
- Surveyed measurements of the critical section (profile of elevations and distances);
- Two hand-dug test pits and soil field classifications;
- Laboratory test results for one soil sample; and
- NWI&T's experience with similar dams and slopes.

The slope profile, material properties, and the phreatic surface were input into the SLOPE/W computer slope stability model. Additional inputs were made to bound the problem, such as starting trial coordinates, maximum depth of analysis, and precision of output results. The model computed the factor of safety for multiple trial surfaces and determined the surface that has the lowest factor of safety.

The graphic model output and laboratory test results for one soil sample are provided on the following pages.



Color	Name	Unit Weight (pcf)	Cohesion' (psf)	Phi' (°)
	Silty Sand with Gravel	132	50	34

Slope Stability	
Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam Slope Stability.gsz	
06/14/2021	1:154

PIONEER
TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.

May 20, 2021

Ray Schwaller
North Wind I&T, Inc.
1065 N. Ewing
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam Assessment
Pioneer Technical Services, Inc. Project No. 2101034

Dear Mr. Schwaller,

On May 12, a sample was delivered to our ASTM/AASHTO accredited materials testing laboratory. The sample was given Lab No. 25039. The testing requests on various samples were performed in general accordance with the following Standards:

- Sieve Analysis of Coarse and Fine Aggregate (ASTM C117&C136);
- Liquid Limit, Plastic Limit and Plasticity Index of Soils (ASTM D4318);
- Moisture Content of Soil (ASTM D2216); and
- Specific Gravity of Soils (ASTM D854).

The following tables present our results:

Table 1 – Specific Gravity and Moisture Content

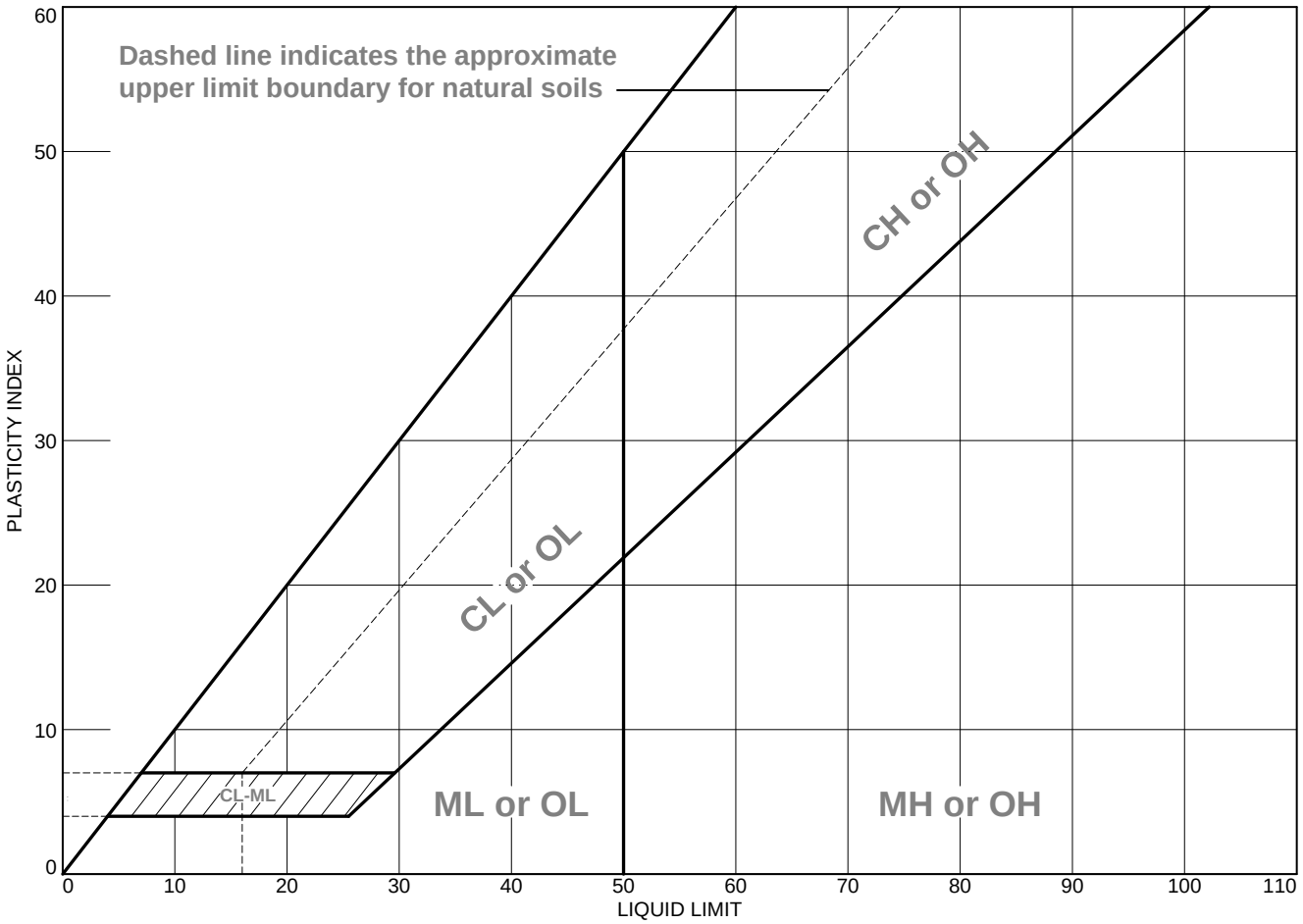
Lab No.	Boring	Depth (ft)	Specific Gravity	Moisture Content (%)
25039	TP-01	1.0'	2.699	8.8

The grain-size distributions and Atterberg Limits charts are included with this report. We thank you for using Pioneer Technical Services, Inc. for your geotechnical and materials testing requirements. If you have any questions regarding these results, please contact Kevin Mock at (406) 443-6053.

Sincerely,
PIONEER TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.

Kevin Mock
Materials Testing Supervisor

LIQUID AND PLASTIC LIMITS TEST REPORT



	Material Description	Sampled	Tested	Technician	LL	PL	PI	%<#40	USCS
●	silty sand with gravel				NV	NP	NP	38	SM

Project No. 2101034 **Client:** North Wind I&T, Inc.

Project: Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam Assessment

○**Location:** Test Pit #1 **Depth:** 1.0' **Sample Number:** 25039

PIONEER TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.

Checked by:

Title:

Figure

Particle Size Distribution Report

% +3"	% Gravel		% Sand			% Fines	
	Coarse	Fine	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Silt	Clay
0	9	20	8	25	25	13	

SIEVE SIZE	PERCENT FINER	SPEC.* PERCENT	PASS? (X=NO)
3"	100		
2"	99		
1.5"	97		
1"	94		
3/4"	91		
1/2"	87		
3/8"	84		
#4	71		
#10	63		
#20	50		
#40	38		
#60	29		
#100	22		
#200	13		

* (no specification provided)

Soil Description

silty sand with gravel

Atterberg Limits

PL= NP LL= NV PI= NP

Coefficients

D_{90}= 16.4462 D_{85}= 9.9257 D_{60}= 1.5455
D_{50}= 0.8389 D_{30}= 0.2658 D_{15}= 0.0872
D_{10}= C_u= C_c=

Classification

USCS= SM AASHTO= A-1-b

Remarks

Location: Test Pit #1
Sample Number: 25039 **Depth:** 1.0' **Date:**

PIONEER TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.

Client: North Wind I&T, Inc.
Project: Feathered Pipe Ranch Dam Assessment

Project No: 2101034 **Figure**

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Septic System Replacement
November 2022
Kelly Mitchell
Helena, MT
Lewis and Clark County

PURPOSE AND NEED

The proponent proposes to use DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL) private grant funding for the replacement of their failing septic system. The previous septic system was experiencing significant issues and Lewis and Clark County Health Department recommended replacement. The project is located on private land in the Helena Valley, Lewis and Clark County, Montana. The project was completed November, 2022.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the septic system replacement project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

☐Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.

☐Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.

☐Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

☐Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.

☐Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. DNRC – CARDD does not have any CE's in the Administrative Rules of Montana at the time of this template.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

Prepared By:	**Name:** Samantha Treu MEPA Coordinator	**Date:**	11/22/2022

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman **Title:** Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077EC22EC836461...	**Date**:	12/9/2022 | 3:15:28 PM MST

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

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FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION MEMO
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Water System Improvements
December 2022
North Havre County Water District
48.764914 Latitude, -109.964628 Longitude
Hill County

PURPOSE AND NEED

North Havre County Water District was originally formed in the early 1980s to assume responsibility of the water system created by the US Air Force for providing treated water to the Havre Radar Base. The system is located approximately 21.5 miles northwest of Havre just off State Highway 232.

The District expanded the original system to include area farmers and ranchers. In 2010-2016 a large system improvements project was completed. The North Central Montana Regional Water Authority constructed a transmission main between the City of Havre and the North Havre CWD Water Treatment plant. The Water Treatment Plant pipeline servicing the bulk fill station was updated, made improvements to the high service pumping system, replaced 15,480 linear feet of distribution piping, added a new storage tank, a satellite meter system, and constructed a distribution pipeline to the Hilldale Colony. Upon connecting to the Regional Water System two reservoir ponds are not used.

The water system needs improvements and upgrades. The district has one storage facility and needs a second storage tank. The clear well is 6,000 gallons and is not adequate to meet peak flow demands at the bulk fill station. The bulk fill station piping configuration to the high service pump is also inadequate during peak flow. The bulk fill station, at its current location, has slow flows and safety concerns about access. The control system has become outdated and cumbersome to operate.

The District is proposing to construct a 25,000 gallon concrete clear well and a new bulk fill depot facility with upgraded controls approximately 50-ft south of the existing clear well, which is being abandoned. The clear well will be housed in a new building that includes the new bulk fill depot facility and upgraded controls. The project will include the installation of larger piping from the new clear well to existing treatment building and a complete control system upgrade. A new storage tank is planned to be built with a separate project in the future when funding is secured.

Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in April of 2023 and be completed and operational November 2023.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

The proposed improvements to the North Havre County Water District's system will improve the management of the system and provide reliable flows to all customers on the system.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the North Havre County Water District Water Improvements Project.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

☒Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances. Included below is a supplemental checklist verifying the use of the Categorical Exclusion and Location Maps of the project.

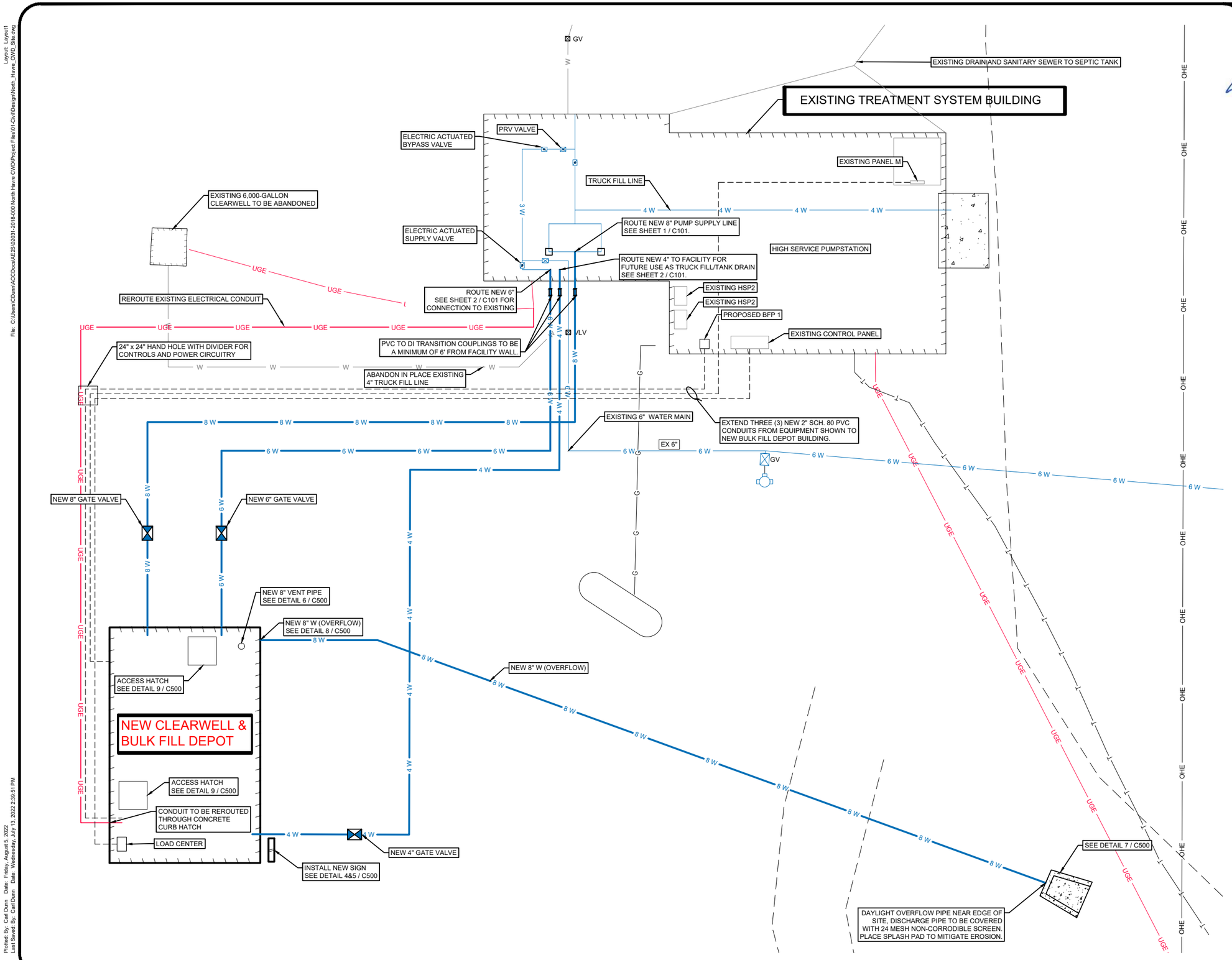
Prepared By:	**Name:**	David C Larson, P.E.		
	Title:	CARDD Engineer	**Date:**	12/05/2022
	Email:	dclarson@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman		
	Title: Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 077FC22FC836461...	**Date**:	12/27/2022 | 4:14:28 PM MST

NORTH HAVRE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
Water System Improvements Project

NORTH HAVRE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
Water System Improvements Project

North Havre County Water District Treatment System - Site Location



MONTANA
JONATHAN WEISENBURGER
No. 17751 PE
July 15, 2022
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

NORTH

0 5
Scale in Feet

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL WALL PIPING TO BE CAST-IN-PLACE ON ALL INLET AND OUTLET PIPING AS DESCRIBED IN SPECIFICATION 11285 SECTION 3.02.B.3 AND ON SHEET C500 DETAIL 8.
2. GRADING SHALL BE PROVIDED AT 20:1 SLOPE ACROSS THE CLEARWELL ROOF, NO LESS THAN A 4:1 SLOPE TO TIE INTO EXISTING GRADE ON THE SIDES, AND A 20:1 SLOPE MAINTAINED OUTWARD 50FT FROM THE CLEARWELL TO PREVENT STANDING WATER.

AE2S

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
NORTH HAVRE CWD
HAVRE, MT

SITE PIPING LAYOUT

DRAWING TYPE	DEQ REVIEW
PREPARED BY	CSD
CHECKED / APPROVED	RJH / RNW
DATE	JULY 2022
PROJECT NUMBER	02031-2018-000
SHEET	4 of 7
DRAWING	C100

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION NOTICE
ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Butte-Silver Bow, City-County of Rocker Sanitary Sewer System Lift Station and Connection to Metro Wastewater Treatment Plan
November 2022
City-County of Butte-Silver Bow
Lat 46.00522, Long -112.62398
Butte-Silver Bow County

Existing Environmental Review Document:
Rocker County Water & Sewer District/Butte-Silver Bow, City-County
Environmental Assessment and Adoption (Attached)

Type and Purpose of Action

The community of Rocker is located approximately three miles west of the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow on Interstate 90. In 1976, residents petitioned the Butte-Silver Bow (BSB) Council of Commissioners for the creation of the County Water and Sewer District of Rocker, Montana (District). Since that time, this small town has operated and maintained a small local wastewater treatment system (WWTS). Over the years, an aging infrastructure, personnel turnover, inadequate user rates, and increased commercial development have left the District unable to maintain a treatment system that meets current water quality standards. Historically, the District has discharged treated effluent to Silver Bow Creek under a Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit (MPDES No. 0027430). In 2006, a new discharge permit became effective and included more restrictive limits for biological oxygen demand (BOD5) and total suspended solids (TSS). The permit update also included wintertime E. coli bacteriological limits and a chlorine residual limit effective January 1, 2010.

The project is to construct a new lift station and associated infrastructure to convey raw wastewater from the District to the BSB Metro wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The proposed lift station will include a control building, pump wet well, duplex pump system, valve vault, and emergency (backup) generator. It will also require construction of approximately 330-feet new 8-inch diameter gravity sewer main to convey sewage from north of the existing lift station location to the proposed new lift station, an additional 470-feet of 8-inch force main to the proposed connection to the 8-inch force main owned by BSB Metro, and an additional 330-feet of 8-inch force main near the Metro WWTP to connect to the existing system.

The project includes:

- Dewatering and excavation to install a new 96-inch lift station wet well.
- Installation of gravity sewer mains and manholes to direct flow to the new wet well.

- Installation of a new flow meter and pipeline pigging access vault.
- Installation of a new force main from the lift station to the existing 8-inch sludge line in Grizzly Trail Road.
- Installation of a new, prefabricated, above-grade valve and controls vault.
- Installation of a new emergency backup generator.
- Installation of a new control valve and flow meter vault near the Metro WWTP.
- Installation of new sewer force main connection to the existing 14-inch Tax Increment Financing Industrial district (TIFID) pipeline.
- Installation of a new sewer force main connection to existing gravity sewer trunk main at Metro WWTP.
- Installation of new instrumentation and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) controls to interface with the existing BSB Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system.
- Startup and commissioning of the new lift station and controls.
- Abandonment and demolition of the existing sewer lift station in Rocker.

Construction of the project is scheduled to begin June 2022 and expected to be complete by September 2023.

Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

☒The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
☒All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
☒Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
☒The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
☒The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Reviewed By:	**Name:** Samantha Kemp	**Date:**	11/25/2022
	Title: APRA Grant Program Specialist		
	Email: Samantha.kemp@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman		
	Title: Bureau Chief		
Signature:	DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 877FC22FC0864C1...	**Date**:	12/8/2022 | 3:59:18 PM MST

DEQ
Montana Department
of Environmental Quality

May 4, 2021

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

As required by state and federal rules for determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project	Rocker County Water & Sewer District, Connection to BSB Metro Wastewater Treatment Facility
Location	Rocker, Montana
Project Number	C302261
Total Cost	$1,346,310

The Rocker County Water & Sewer District, through its 2014 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and 2020 PER Update, identified the need to abandon the District's wastewater treatment lagoons and install pumping equipment and connect to the Butte-Silver Bow Metro sewer system via an existing 8-inch force main. The report identified construction of the lift station and connection to BSB Metro as necessary improvements to serve future growth within District limits, comply with an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with DEQ and generally improve treatment. The AOC was executed in 2011 to address Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit violations. In conjunction with the new lift station, minor sewer extension is needed to connect the District lift station to the BSB Metro sewer. The 2014 PER and 2020 Update assessed alternatives for connection to BSB Metro. This PER process identified the existing 8-inch forcemain owned by BSB Metro as the preferred connection point.

The proposed project will consist of a new lift station and approximately 500 feet of pressure sewer main located just east of the existing District lift station. With the commercial service area likely to see growth over the lifespan of the project, the improvements will be designed to pump approximately double the flow currently handled by the District wastewater treatment facility. The availability of the BSB Metro advanced treatment facility allows for better, centralized management of wastewater (in contrast to maintaining the existing District WWTF) to better protect the environment and human health. The existing discharge of the District wastewater to Silver Bow Creek will be eliminated, thereby protecting local water quality.

The estimated cost of all proposed improvements (including administration, engineering, and construction) is approximately $1,346,310. The District will fund these project costs through a loan from the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Program, with $267,828 of the loan amount forgiven based on current cost estimates and the remainder at an interest rate of 2.50% and a term of 20 years. The District also has secured a $125,000 grant from the DNRC RRGL program for the project. The current average residential sewer rate in Rocker is $25 per month and a rate increase is needed, resulting in a rate of $48.62 per month to fund this project. Construction is slated to begin in the spring of 2021.

Federal and State grant/loan programs will fund the project. Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, and historical sites are not expected to be adversely impacted because of the proposed project. Public participation during the planning process demonstrated support for the selected alternative. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified. An environmental assessment (EA), which describes the project and analyzes the impacts in more detail, is available for public scrutiny on the DEQ web site http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea and at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Jackie.Kuhl@mt.gov

Rocker County Water & Sewer District
1108 Grizzly Trail
Butte, MT 59701

Comments on the EA may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality at the above address. After evaluating comments received, the department will revise the environmental assessment or determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary. If no substantive comments are received during the comment period, or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant, the agency will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Sincerely,

Michele Marsh
for Mark A. Smith, PE
SRF Program Manager
Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

ROCKER LIFT STATION UPGRADE & CONNECTION TO BUTTE-SILVER BOW METRO WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. COVER SHEET

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant:	County Water & Sewer District of Rocker
Address:	County Water & Sewer District of Rocker 1108 Grizzly Trail Butte, MT 59701
Project Number:	WPCSRF C302261

B. CONTACT PERSON

Name:	Albert Molignoni, District Chairman
Address:	County Water & Sewer District of Rocker 1108 Grizzly Trail Butte, MT 59701
Telephone:	(406) 723-9365

C. ABSTRACT

The County Water & Sewer District of Rocker Montana (District) Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and December 2020 Update, has identified the need to abandon its' existing District wastewater lagoons and reroute the District's wastewater to the Butte-Silver Bow Metro Wastewater Treatment Facility (BSB Metro WWTF). The District constructed the existing lift station and aerated lagoon treatment facility in 1985. In 1997 the District added a mechanical reactor to enhance pretreatment prior to the lagoons. Historically the District has discharged treated effluent to Silver Bow Creek under a Montana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit (MPDES No. 0027430). In 2006 a new discharge permit became effective and included more restrictive limits for biological oxygen demand (BOD_5) and total suspended solids (TSS). The permit update also included wintertime *E. coli* bacteriological limits and a chlorine residual limit effective January 1, 2010. The *E. coli* limit has been problematic for the District because the existing chlorination equipment was not designed or constructed to operate in freezing weather. Meeting the limit on residual chlorine would require the District to dechlorinate prior to discharge or switch to ultraviolet disinfection.

This District had many MPDES permit violations for the District between 2007 and 2010. In 2011 the District and DEQ negotiated an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) to work toward corrective actions. The District hired DOWL and through the 2014 PER the District determined connection to the BSB Metro WWTF would be the most cost-effective solution. The Rocker Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report

(DOWL HKM, 2014) and PER Update (DOWL, 2020) compared upgrading the existing wastewater facilities against connection to the BSB Metro WWTF through the existing Tax Increment Financing Industrial District (TIFID) wastewater pipeline.

The proposed project is to construct a new lift station and associated infrastructure to convey raw wastewater from the District to the BSB Metro WWTF. This project will result in elimination of the District's wastewater treatment plant and associated surface water discharge to Silver Bow Creek. The new lift station will be constructed adjacent to the existing lift station site. The new lift station will have additional pumping and storage capacity to meet design flows and will reduce maintenance, improve staff safety and increase system reliability. The existing lift station will be demolished, and all unused underground piping will be properly abandoned.

In March 2018, BSB Metro agreed to allow the District to use an existing BSB Metro owned 8-inch sewer force main and supplemental Silver Lake Industrial water to enhance flushing velocities and reduce stagnation of the raw wastewater instead of using the 14-inch TIFID line.

The estimated cost for the proposed improvements, including administration, engineering, and construction, is $1,346,310 and is anticipated to be funded through a RRGL grant of $125,000, District Reserves of $150,000, a low interest loan (2.5%) of $803,482 and Loan Forgiveness of $267,828 from the Montana Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund.

Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species and historical sites are not expected to be adversely impacted as a result of the proposed projects. Additional environmental impacts related to land use, water quality, air quality, public health, energy, noise, and growth were also assessed. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified.

Under Montana law, (75-6-112, MCA), no person may construct, extend, or use a public sewage system until the DEQ has reviewed and approved the plans and specifications for the project. Under the Montana Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Act, the DEQ may loan money to municipalities for construction of public sewage systems.

The DEQ, Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau, has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

D. COMMENT PERIOD

Thirty (30) calendar days

II. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The County Water & Sewer District of Rocker (District) 2014 PER and the December 2020 PER Update, prepared by DOWL, have identified the need to replace the existing lift station, located south of Fox Run Road on District-owned property, and reroute the District's wastewater to the BSB Metro WWTF.

Between February 2007 and June 2010, the District's wastewater treatment facility experienced many effluent limit exceedances. Most of the exceedance problems involved TSS and pH, but effluent limits were also exceeded for BOD_5, *E. coli* and Residual Chlorine. Those violations are well documented in the PER. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) initiated formal enforcement actions against the District to address permit violations in 2010. On May 20, 2011, the District and DEQ entered an AOC. Due to the AOC and significant costs to upgrade the District's wastewater treatment facilities to meet the permit, the PER and PER update recommended and the District agreed, connection to the BSB Metro wastewater treatment facility is the most cost-effective solution. BSB Metro had constructed a TIFID pipeline to carry wastewater from the industrial park near Rocker in 2010 through 2011. In 2018, BSB Metro agreed to accept the District's wastewater to be treated at the BSB Metro WWTF. At that time BSB Metro also agreed to allow the District to use an abandoned 8-inch force main that had previously been used to deliver BSB reuse water to the sod field. The BSB Metro WWTF achieves a very high level of treatment through biological treatment and membrane filtration prior to discharge to Silver Bow Creek.

III. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The PER and PER Update compared upgrading the existing wastewater treatment facilities to abandoning the District wastewater treatment facilities and connection to the Butte-Silver Bow's Metro via the existing TIFID wastewater pipeline. Later negotiations with BSB Metro, completed in 2018, resulted in a smaller 8-inch sewer force main owned by BSB Metro becoming available to the District for use as a force main in lieu of pumping into the 14-inch TIFID pipeline. This 8-inch line is much closer to the existing Rocker lift station and its use makes more sense from a flow perspective, so is further considered here.

A. Treatment Alternatives

Four alternatives for replacement or rehabilitation of the existing Rocker Wastewater Treatment Facility were evaluated in the PER. Alternative 1 is No-Action, Alternative 2 is upgrading the existing wastewater treatment lagoons, Alternative 3 is construction of a new lift station and connecting to the BSB Metro TIFID pipeline, and Alternative 4 is construction of a new lift station and connecting to an existing 8-inch force main owned by BSB Metro to carry wastewater to the BSB Metro WWTP. A summary of these alternatives and resultant outcome is provided here:

Alternative 1 No Action – If no action is taken to replace or rehabilitate the existing wastewater treatment facility, the District will not meet effluent water quality limits in its MPDES permit. The existing treatment facility is nearing the end of its useful life and without equipment replacement and sludge removal, the equipment will continue to fail, and the District will be fined by DEQ for water quality violations. Based on these concerns, the no-action alternative is not considered to be a viable option.

Alternative 2 Upgrade the Existing District Wastewater Treatment System – Butte-Silver Bow has invested heavily in converting the BSB treatment facility into an advanced nutrient removal facility with effluent filtration to help comply with the very stringent effluent criteria for Silver Bow Creek. Despite these improvements, the effluent water quality may still warrant further treatment to comply with discharge criteria for metals. Any other point source discharge to Silver Bow Creek, such as a new treatment facility at Rocker, will be expected to maintain

essentially the same effluent criteria, requiring a very complex, capable and expensive WWTF. The technical, managerial and financial capacity of the District continues to be a challenge and the benefits of a separate treatment system are minimal with any District owned, operated and maintained option that would be considered viable. For these reasons, the option of constructing a new, advanced treatment system was removed from further consideration in the 2014 PER and that continues to be the case today.

Alternative 3 Connect to the Existing TIFID Pipeline – In 2011 and 2012 Butte-Silver Bow's TIFID wastewater conveyance system pipeline was constructed. This pipeline passes within ½ mile of the District's lift station and in 2014, was thought to be the best answer for conveying the District's raw wastewater to the BSB Metro WWTP. The PER titled "Connection to TIFID Wastewater Pipeline" evaluated five force main routes from the existing lift station to the TIFID force main. All five locations are within approximately 1,500 feet of the existing lift station. Common to each of the various connection options are upgrades to the wastewater lift station to pump the wastewater to Butte-Silver Bow's Metro WWTF via the TIFID wastewater pipeline.

This alternative would abandon the existing wastewater treatment facility, make major improvements to the existing District lift station and install a new force main from the existing lift station and connect to Butte-Silver Bow's TIFID wastewater pipeline. The TIFID wastewater pipeline connects REC Silicon and the TIFID Industrial Park near Ramsay to the BSB Metro WWTF on Centennial Avenue through a 14-inch diameter force main.

The options were evaluated based on cost and other criteria including environmental factors, operation and maintenance considerations, construction challenges, public acceptance, land requirements (easements) and input from Butte-Silver Bow Public Works and the Greenway Service District Board. Each of these options had estimated costs between $523,000 and $675,000 in 2014. However, base anticipated industrial wastewater flow volumes in the TIFID pipeline have not materialized to the extent anticipated.

Due to the low volumes of wastewater from the TIFID Industrial Park, the District's wastewater will experience a residence time in the TIFID pipeline in the range of 60 hours in the summer to 85 hours in the winter. At such long residence times, projected hydrogen sulfide concentrations at the end of the TIFID pipeline where it discharges to the Metro sewer system are expected to be high. Further, the low flushing velocity and low turnover volumes of water through the pipeline are not adequate to resuspend solids and prevent solids accumulation in the pipeline. Increasing flow and thus shortening residence time in the TIFID pipeline by adding clean water from the Silver Lake industrial water transmission pipeline was considered. But the volume of clean water required and the associated increase in pumping costs were prohibitive, so the District continued to explore other options. This alternative was not further considered based on these findings.

Alternative 4 Connect to the 8-inch Force Main owned by BSB Metro – The District had previously looked at use of an 8-inch force main owned by BSB Metro to convey wastewater from Rocker to the Metro WWTP, as this pipeline passes within 500 feet of the District's lift station. In the early planning stages for the District this 8-inch force main was not available. The 8-sludge transfer line was originally constructed in 1978 to convey stabilized bio-solids from the Metro WWTP to sludge drying beds located near the small community of Silver Bow approximately 6 miles west of Butte. In later years this pipeline was used to convey treated wastewater for spray irrigation at the Butte-Silver Bow sod farm near Silver Bow. Now that Butte-Silver Bow's new wastewater treatment plant is complete and operational the line is no

longer used by BSB Metro and it has been offered as an alternative to the District for conveyance of its untreated wastewater to the BSB Metro WWTF.

Due to the amount of time that has passed, the age of pumps and concrete and the lack of hydraulic capacity with respect to the existing lift station, the 2020 PER Update has determined the lift station should be replaced. The proposed lift station will include a control building, dry well, valve vault, and emergency (backup) generator. It will also require construction of approximately 50 feet of new 8-inch diameter gravity sewer main to convey sewage from north of the existing lift station location to the proposed new lift station and an additional 470-feet of 8-inch force main to the proposed connection to the 8-inch force main owned by BSB Metro in Grizzly Trail Road.

On the Butte Metro WWTF end of the force main, two connections will be made to create a bypass from the 8-inch force main into the Butte Metro WWTF. First, the existing 8-inch diameter force main will carry the wastewater to just outside of the BSB Metro WWTF. Approximately 100 feet of new 8-inch diameter force main will transfer the wastewater to the existing 14-inch TIFID wastewater force main. The 14-inch diameter force main (TIFID) conveys the wastewater to the existing 48-inch diameter interceptor sewer into the BSB Metro WWTF. Also, as a back-up in the event the 14-inch force main ever becomes hydraulically limited, approximately 350 feet of 8-inch diameter force main will be installed along with a control valve vault to allow diversion to an existing 16-inch diameter gravity sewer main at the BSB Metro WWTP.

The potential for hydrogen sulfide formation was evaluated in the 8-inch diameter, 15,000-ft long force main (former sludge transfer pipeline) from Rocker to the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. A tentative plan is to add a continuous flow of 60 to 70 gpm (100,000 gpd) of clean water from the Silver Lake pipeline to the new lift station wet well. This added water will decrease the force main residence time, reduce the wastewater concentration and reduce the wastewater temperature, all of which will result in less hydrogen sulfide formation.

B. PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE COST ANALYSIS

Alternative 4 has been identified as the only viable alternative within the 2020 PER Update and has been identified as the District's preferred alternative.

The following table provides a summary of the capital costs for the proposed alternative project presented in the 2020 PER Update.

TABLE 1 - SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION AND ADMIN COSTS FOR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Item	Construction Cost	Contingency	Subtotal	Legal / Admin.	Engineer / Const. Admin / Project Mgmt.	Total Capital Cost
Lift Station, Sewer Mains & Site Work	$799,365	$119,900	$919,265	$36,771	$25,568	$981,604
Force Main Extension at WWTF, Valve Vault, Controls and	$204,400	$24,400	$228,800	$9,152	$40,078	$278,130
Force Main Materials Installed by BSB Metro	$26,353	$4,000	$30,353	$1,214	$3,653	$35,220
Utilities Relocation	$17,500	$2,625	$20,125	$805	$3,653	$24,583
Bonding & BSB Costs						$26,774
Totals =	**$1,047,618**	**$150,925**	**$1,198,543**	**$47,942**	**$73,052**	**$1,346,311**

C. BASIS OF SELECTION OF PREFERED ALTERNATIVE

Although Alternative 3 was presented as the preferred alternative in the 2014 PER, lack of flow from the BSB Industrial Park has resulted in use of the 14-inch TIFID pipeline being problematic for carrying the District wastewater. Pumping District wastewater into the TIFID line would result in stagnation of the raw wastewater and production of hydrogen sulfide gas, which is a very corrosive byproduct of raw wastewater as it breaks down in an anaerobic environment. Also due to the low flows carried within the TIFID line, raw wastewater could settle solids leading to excessive plugging over time. For these reasons Alternative 3 was discarded in the 2020 PER Update and Alternative 4 was identified as the better solution for the following reasons:

- Scouring velocities can be maintained within the 8-inch line with the addition of a reasonable amount of water from the Silver Lake industrial water line.
- Alternative 4 results in construction of less new force main to reach the existing 8-inch force main owned by BSB Metro.
- Connection to the 8-inch line results in less impact with respect to stream and railroad crossing and permitting issues.
- BSB Metro has agreed to allow use of the 8-inch line by the District now that they are no longer using it for sod farm irrigation.
- Use of the TIFID 14-inch main Alternative 3 posed several potential problems with respect to hydrogen sulfide production and solids deposition.

The use of open cut excavation from the new lift station location to the connection with the 8-inch force main will provide a cost-effective project, meet environmental and regulatory compliance and is easily constructible. It was determined that the open cut excavation approach meets the requirements to protect environmental quality, reduce maintenance, energy costs, and achieve regulatory compliance.

The estimated administration, design and construction cost for Alternative 4 is approximately $1,346,310. The District will fund the project using a $1,071,310 loan from the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund (WPCSRF) program that will have an interest rate of 2.5% for 20 years. $267,828 of that loan will be forgiven as long as the project is completed as planned and and meets the loan conditions. An additional $125,000 grant has been secured from the DNRC RRGL grant program. The District will contribute $150,000 from its reserve account.

The result of the project on wastewater user fees is presented in the 2020 PER Update. The engineer estimated a $23.62 per month user rate increase. This fee increase is calculated based on an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU). Multi-family and industrial users would pay based on the number of EDU's proportionally assigned to their properties. Current monthly user rates of $25 per month would increase to $48.62 per month for residential customers. Commercial users would see a change from $3.91 to $11.18 per 1,000 gallons for service. These projected new rates are necessary for the District to pay off the loan debt and support operation and maintenance of the new lift station and facilities. The proposed rate structure is also consistent with what BSB Metro customers currently pay for sewer service, so the proposed fee structure does not place a disproportionate cost on District customers.

The financial impact of the existing sewer rate on the system users is shown in Table 2. The proposed project will result in a monthly sewer cost per household that is 1.1% of the monthly median household income. Based on EPA guidance for project affordability, the current sewer rate may pose a moderate economic hardship on some households.

TABLE 2 - PROJECT AFFORDABILITY

Monthly sewer user cost	$48.62
Monthly median household income (mMHI)[1]	$4,580
User rate as a percentage of mMHI	1.1%

[1] Based on 2019 American Communities Survey Data

IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. STUDY AREA / MAPS

The Rocker Sewer District is situated in southwest Montana along Interstate 90, approximately 3 miles west of Butte, Montana (see Figure 1). It is located within Silver Bow County with Butte as the educational, financial, and social center for the surrounding populace. The planning area includes the District Boundary (presented in Figure 2) and existing BSB Metro owned and controlled route of the 8-inch pipeline and BSB Metro WWTF. The proposed improvements, consist of the new lift station, connecting sewer, 8-inch BSB Metro line and BSB Metro's WWTF are shown in Figure 3.

B. POPULATION AND FLOW PROJECTIONS

According to the Land Use Map of the Butte-Silver Bow Growth Policy 2008 Update (CDSM, 2008), the planning area (which is the area north of Silver Bow Creek within

the District boundary) is mapped as Commercial Land Use. Much of this land is undeveloped and could be served by extension of the District's wastewater collection system. Given a design year of 2040, the planning area, due to its proximity to the Interstate, can reasonably be assumed to develop faster than predicted by countywide population. The capacity of both the Rocker wastewater treatment facility and its sewage lift station is 50,000 gallons per day. These facilities have reserve capacity, but arguably not for the next 20 years, as wastewater flows currently range from 25,000 gallons per day in the winter to 40,000 gallons per day in the summer. It should be noted that there has been no major development in Rocker since Motel 6 was constructed in 2000.

Without definitive plans for future development, it is proposed that a capacity increase to 100,000 gallons per day is reasonable and sufficient and economically provides reserve capacity for future growth.

C. NATURAL FEATURES

The Rocker Sewer District (District) sits at an elevation of approximately 5,500 feet above sea level. Weather is widely varied from summer to winter with highs in the 90's for short (weekly) periods in July and August to lows well below zero at times between November and March. Precipitation is generally about half of the national average and results in approximately 12-15 inches per year. While the area within the District boundary is largely disturbed existing and past commercial and residential properties, there is a moderate grade toward Silver Bow Creek to the south, along with both native and transplanted riparian buffer along the creek bottom. Due to the proximity of the force main to a remediated superfund site (Silver Bow Creek corridor) some environmental precautions must be taken when constructing in the Silver Bow Creek floodplain which will increase the construction complexity. If trench spoils are found to be contaminated soil, coordination with Butte-Silver Bow and the DEQ Remediation Division will be required to ensure the soils are dealt with in an approved manner.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

A. DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

1. Land Use/Prime Farmland - All of the proposed work located on the Rocker District end of the project will be located on developed property owned by the by the District or under easement. Work that will be necessary at the BSB Metro WWTF will take place on property owned or under easement by BSB Metro. Construction of the lift station and associated piping and utilities on the property should not be a land use concern. The site is not classified as prime farmland. No adverse effects to the land use are expected due to the proposed utility improvements.

   Based on existing conditions and soils types, the impacts of the proposed project will have no significant effect on the soils or topography. There is potential for the discovery of contaminated soils during construction. The contractor will be required to coordinate and address trenching within groundwater or contaminated soils areas with BSB Metro and the DEQ Remediation programs. However, it is unknown until construction occurs if contaminated soils will be encountered. If contaminated soils are encountered, they will be

removed and replaced with clean soils in accordance with MDEQ regulations and guidance if necessary.

2. Fish and Wildlife - Construction of the proposed improvements should not impact endangered or threatened species and no construction related impacts are anticipated to wildlife habitats, fisheries or other animals. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the proposed project and indicated that based on their review of the proposed project, they had no concerns with the current proposed project and it was unlikely there would be any significant adverse effects to fish, wildlife, or habitat resources. See Agencies Consulted at the end of this EA for a summary of their comments.

3. Water Quality - No significant adverse impacts to surface or groundwater will result from the proposed project. Elimination of the District MPDES permitted discharge will result in improvements to water quality associated with Silver-Bow Creek. A stormwater general discharge permit and a groundwater construction dewatering permit may be needed and will be acquired, if necessary.

4. Floodplain –The proposed lift station site will be outside of the floodplain. The pipe construction portion of this project will require a Floodplain Development Permit which can be obtained from the Butte-Silver Bow Floodplain Administrator if the work in the floodplain complies with local floodplain ordinances and State and Federal laws. See Agencies Consulted at the end of this EA for a summary of their comments.

5. Wetlands – The proposed project alignment does not impact any identified wetlands. Therefore, no adverse impacts to wetlands should occur due to this project. If final design prescribes the placement of fill material in any jurisdictional wetland area, a permit may be required.

6. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act – The proposed project will not impact any rivers designated as wild and scenic by Congress or the Secretary of the Interior.

7. Cultural Resources & Historical Sites – Since most of the proposed construction will occur within previous disturbed areas there is low likelihood that cultural properties will be impacted. The State Historic Preservation Office concurred there is a low likelihood of impacts to cultural resources, but if cultural materials are inadvertently discovered during work activities, construction will be stopped and the State Historic Preservation Office will be contacted. See Agencies Consulted at the end of this EA for a summary of their comments.

8. Air Quality - Short-term negative impacts on the air quality will occur from heavy equipment, dust and exhaust fumes during project construction. Proper construction practices and dust abatement measures must be specified during construction to control dust, thus minimizing this problem. No long-term air quality problems will result from this project.

9. Energy - During construction of the proposed project, additional energy will be consumed, resulting in a direct short-term increased demand on this resource. The project will eliminate the leaking wet well (inflow) and therefore reduce flow that must be pumped to the wastewater treatment facility. The proposed new pumps and the increased flows and

distance between the lift station and BSB Metro WWTF may result in additional pumping costs in the long-term operation of the lift station. The addition of Silver Lake water at an estimated 60-70 gallon per minute to enhance scouring and flow velocity will result in additional pumping costs. Energy consumption will be minimized as much as possible through the use of energy efficient equipment (pumps).

10. Public Health – Public health will be protected and improved due to upgrades at the existing lift station for District staff and within Silver Bow Creek by elimination of the District discharge. The project will eliminate current safety issues for the maintenance staff. Treatment of the District's wastewater will be enhanced by BSB Metro taking on the flows from the District due to the advanced treatment employed at the BSB Metro WWTF.

11. Noise - Short-term impacts from excessive noise levels may occur during the construction activities. The construction period will be limited to normal daylight hours to avoid early morning or late evening construction related disturbances. In the long-term, no increase in noise levels associated with this project will occur. The emergency generator will be housed within the proposed building and the new pumps will be in the (covered) wet well. Therefore, no significant long-term impacts from noise should occur.

12. Environmental Justice – Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898: The proposed project will not result in disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low income populations. The economic impact will ultimately affect all of the users of the system because of the increase in service costs due to the project costs. However, no disproportionate effect among any portion of the community is expected.

13. Sludge Disposal – Within 2-years from the date of abandonment, the existing sludge from District lagoons will be allowed to dry and will then be removed in a manner consistent with US EPA 503 Rules. That work is not being funded as part of this project, but the District understands this obligation.

14. Growth - No significant growth is expected due to the project. However, the lift station will be sized to serve potential growth in the service/planning area over a 20-year design period.

15. Cumulative Effects – The lift station replacement project may have secondary and cumulative impacts associated with growth in the service area due to the availability of increased flow capacity with the proposed lift station. Extension of the District sewer collection system would be required to serve new development within the service/planning area. A sewer collection system typically allows a higher population density because it allows homes to be constructed closer together. Secondary impacts associated with growth in the service area could include: housing, commercial development, solid waste, transportation, and increased air emissions from additional traffic, increased water consumption, and possible loss of agricultural and rural land uses. These secondary impacts are uncertain and cannot be directly addressed in the EA because the local property owners control whether they divide their property and whether they extend the city collection system. However, there are city, county, and state regulations in-place, including; zoning regulations, comprehensive planning, and subdivision laws, that control the density and development (sanitation facilities, water supply, sewage disposal, solid waste disposal and storm drainage system). The density will be controlled to some extent

by these regulations, when and if the property owners divide their property (and extend the city sewer service to their property). It is expected that impacts to the environmental resources due to the wastewater improvements will be minor. However, the projected increase in population and development in the service area would result in increased flows to the BSB Metro WWTF.

B. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Short-term construction related impacts, such as noise, dust and traffic disruption, will occur but should be minimized through proper construction management. Energy consumption during construction cannot be avoided.

VI. AGENCY ACTION, APPLICABLE REGULATIONS, AND PERMITTING AUTHORITIES

All proposed improvements will be designed to meet state standards in accordance with Circular DEQ-2 and will be constructed using standard construction methods. Best management practices will be implemented to minimize or eliminate pollutants during construction. No additional permits will be required from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) section of DEQ for this project after the review of the submitted plans and specifications. However, coverage under the storm water general discharge permit and groundwater dewatering discharge permit, if necessary, must be obtained from the DEQ Water Protection Bureau prior to the beginning of construction. A 124 Permit from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, a 404 Permit from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and a 318 Authorization from the Department of Environment Quality will be obtained for any work that occurs in a streambed or (jurisdictional) wetlands, should it become necessary.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A letter was sent to the residents of Rocker County Water and Sewer District describing the need for the project and the cost in February 2019. The District sent a bill to each user for their percentage of the shortfall of money and many paid the fee. Since then, the Board has held several meetings in 2020 to discuss the necessary revisions to the PER, plans and specifications, and amended project costs. An updated letter was sent to the residents of Rocker County Water and Sewer District describing the changes to the project including the additional costs with the District's water bills on April 16, 2021. Written comments will be accepted and addressed prior to and Finding of No Significant Impact associated with this Environmental Assessment.

VIII. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following documents have been utilized in the environmental review of this project and are considered to be part of the project file:

1. 2014 Preliminary Engineering Report, by DOWL, Butte, Montana.
2. 2020 Preliminary Engineering Update Report, by DOWL, Butte, Montana, December 2020.

3. Butte-Silver Bow Growth Policy 2008 Update (CDSM, 2008)

IX. AGENCIES CONSULTED

The following agencies have been contacted in regard to the PER, which determined the basis for the proposed lift station replacement project:

1. The Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP). FWP was contacted and asked to provide any comments related to potential impacts and did not have specific comments or concerns about impacts to fisheries habitat or wildlife.

2. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) FWS was contacted and asked to provide input. The FWS commented the project was unlikely to result in significant adverse effects to fish, wildlife, and habitat resources under the purview of the FWP.

3. The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) considered the impacts of the proposed project on historical sites and determined there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. The Montana State Historic Preservation Office asks that they be contacted and the site investigated should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during construction.

4. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) was contacted and asked for comments on the proposed project. The USACOE responded that if any jurisdictional waters of the US will receive fill materials a permit must be obtained in advance of that activity. No permit is anticipated to be needed based on the USACOE input.

5. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) was asked in a letter by the project consultant for comments on the proposed project. The DNRC indicated that the Floodplain Administrator will issue a permit for the work if it complies with local floodplain ordinances and State and Federal laws.

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:

[ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis

Rationale for Recommendation: Through the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), prepared by DOWL, the Rocker Sewer District determined that the replacement of the main Rocker Lift Station and transfer of wastewater to BSB Metro WWTF will improve treatment and reduce the operation and maintenance requirements of their system. Through this EA, the MDEQ has verified none of the adverse impacts of the proposed District lift station and force main project are significant; therefore an environmental impact statement is not required. The environmental review was conducted in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.4.607, 17.4.608, 17.4.609 and 17.4.610. This EA is the appropriate level of analysis because none of the adverse effects of the impacts are significant. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued and legally advertised in the local newspaper and distributed to a list of interested agencies. Comments regarding the project will be received for 30 days before final approval is granted.

EA Prepared By:

Jackie Kuhl, P.E. — Date: 05/04/2021

Approved By:

Michele Marsh, P.E. — Date: 5/4/2021

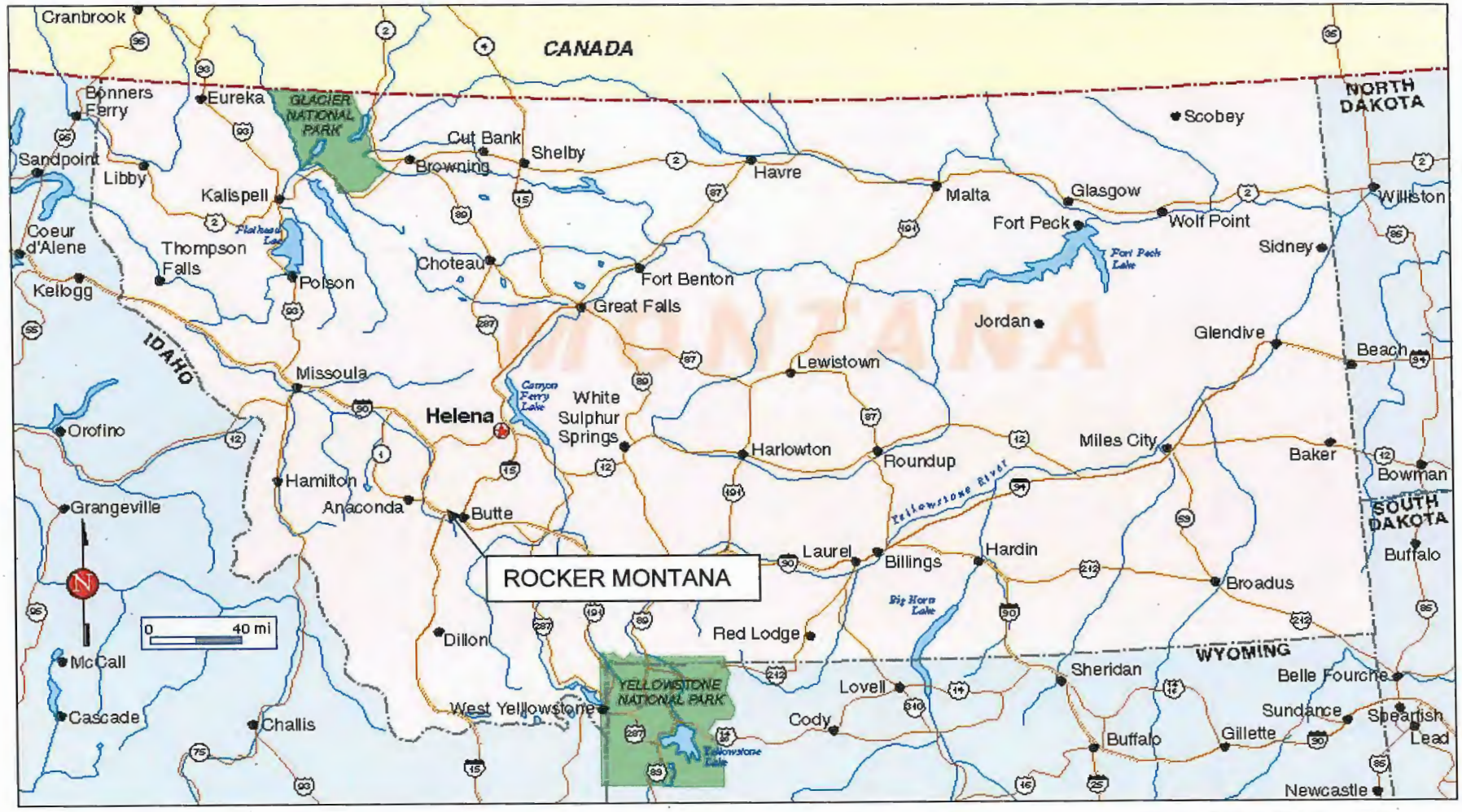
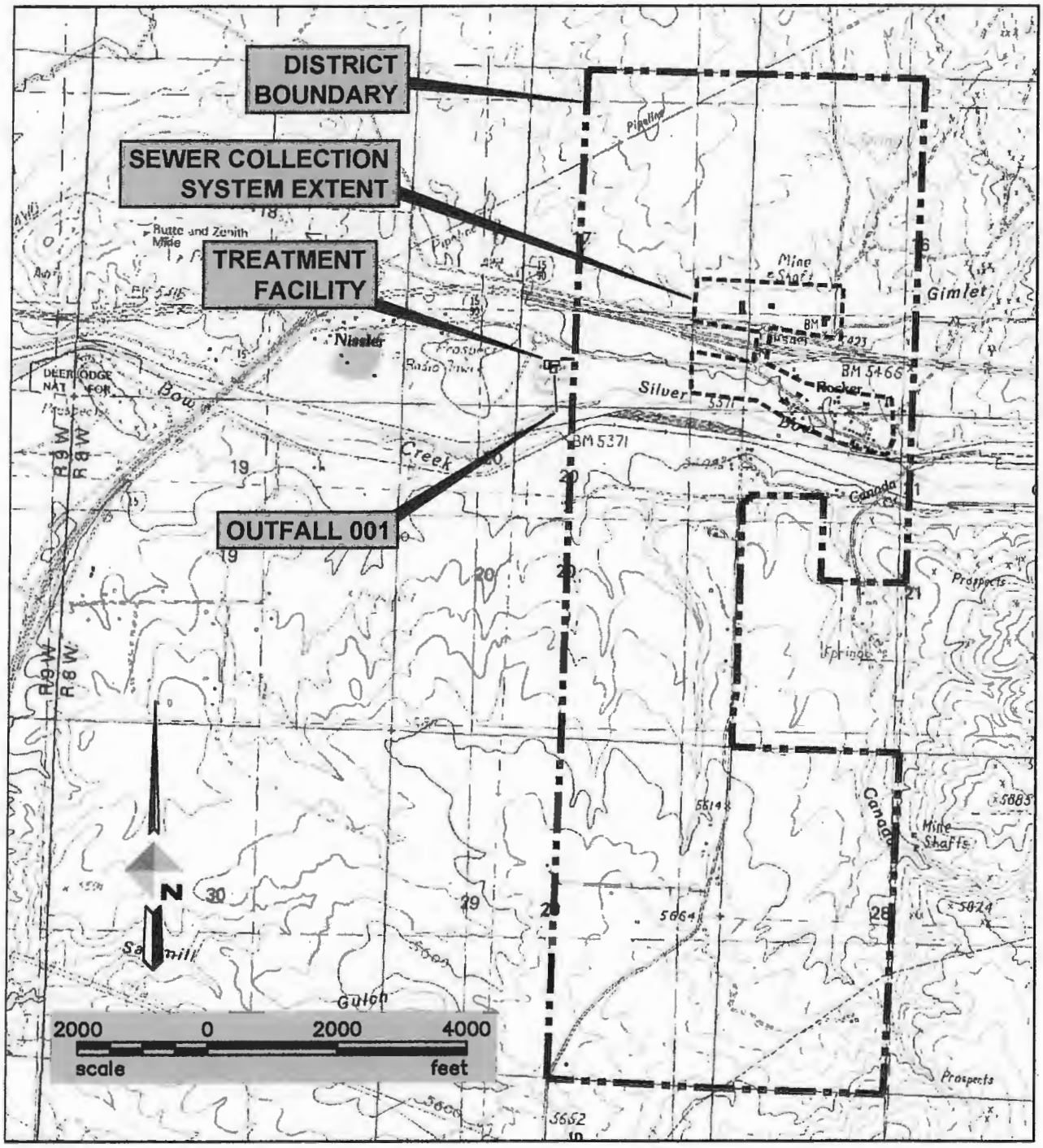
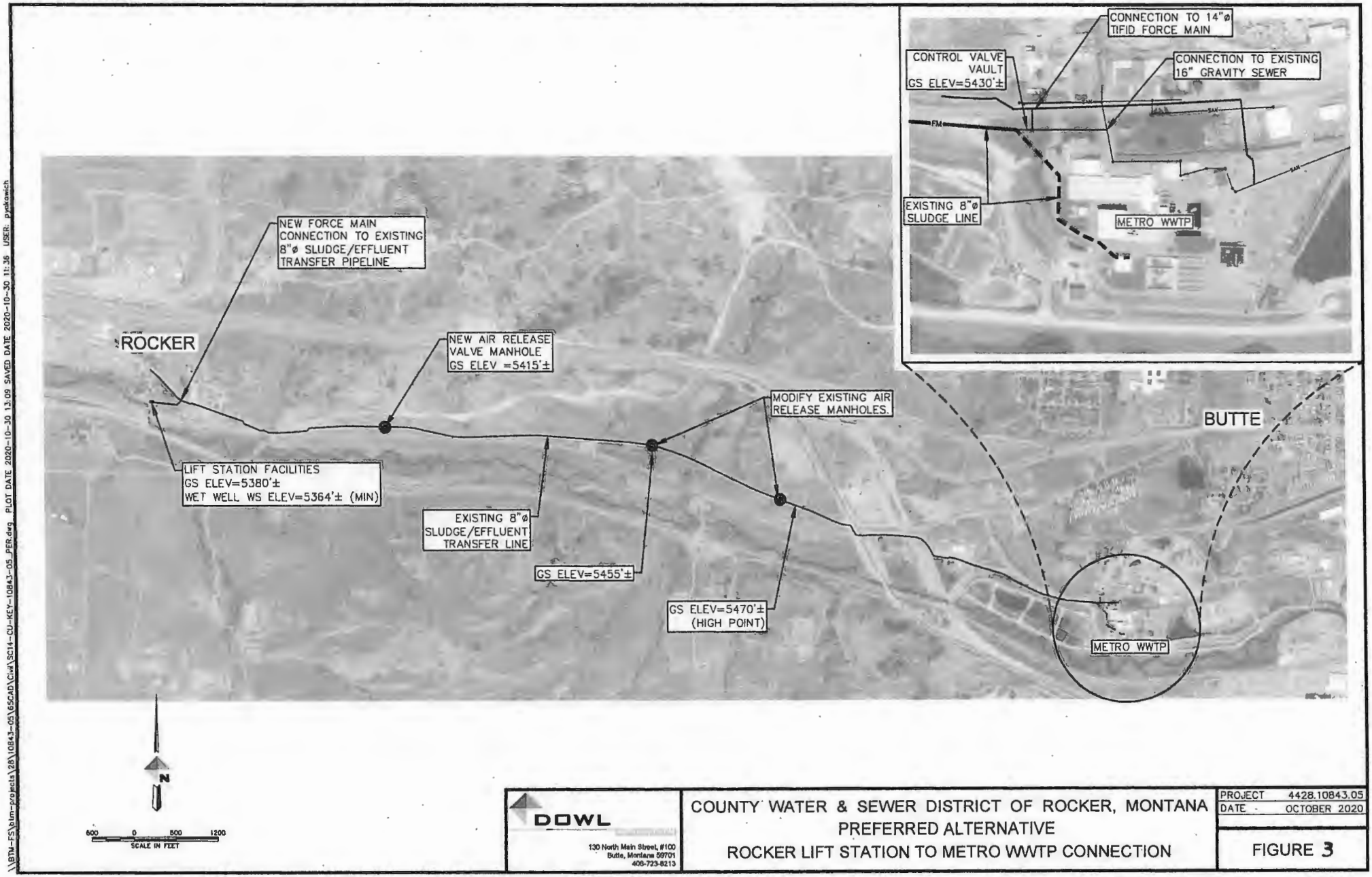


FIGURE 1
LOCATION MAP

FIGURE 2 – WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT BOUNDARY





\\BTM-FS\btm-projects\28\10843-05\65CAD\Civil\SC14-CU-KEY-10843-05_PER.dwg PLOT DATE 2020-10-30 13:09 SAVED DATE 2020-10-30 11:36 USER: pydzwich

DOWL
130 North Main Street, #100
Butte, Montana 59701
406-723-8213

COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT OF ROCKER, MONTANA
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
ROCKER LIFT STATION TO METRO WWTP CONNECTION

PROJECT	4428.10843.05
DATE	OCTOBER 2020

FIGURE 3

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION NOTICE
ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Hobson Wastewater System Rehabilitation
June 2023
Town of Hobson
47.0012167, -109.8652139
Judith Basin County

Existing Environmental Review Document: available upon request

Type and Purpose of Action

The Town of Hobson is located in central Montana in Judith Basin County. The Town is situated along Montana Highway 200/U.S. Highway 87 between the towns of Moccasin and Eddies Corner. The Town's wastewater system is comprised of a gravity collection system, central lift station, and a two-cell facultative lagoon system that is designed to discharge to an adjacent unnamed drainage. The original installation of the collection system dates to the 1960s. Lift station and treatment lagoon upgrades were performed in 1993. Multiple noncompliance with DEQ standards includes allowable leakage rates in the existing lagoons, infiltration & inflow into the collection system, and occasional effluent discharge parameters under the MPDES discharge permit; and the age of existing infrastructure has resulted in the Town pursuing the rehabilitation measures the wastewater collection and treatment system.

The preferred alternative includes replacement or rehabilitation of the entire collection system, rehabilitation of the existing lift station, rehabilitation of the existing facultative lagoons and the construction of a new storage lagoon with an irrigation center pivot to dispose of treated wastewater effluent.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Hobson Wastewater System Rehabilitation Project.

Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

☒The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
☒All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.

☒Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
☒The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
☒The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt
The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Reviewed By:	**Name:** Erin Wall	**Date:**	11/28/22
	Title: ARPA Program Specialist		
	Email: Erin.wall@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman	
	Title: Bureau Chief	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 07ZEC22EC836461...	**Date**: 12/8/2022 | 3:57:51 PM MST	

Environmental Review Documents and the Decision Notice for this project are available to the general public by request at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD) at 1539 11th Ave, Helena, MT. Phone (406) 444-3022.

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K:\Helena\TOWN OF HOBSON\2020\265 Wastewater System PER\05CAD\Sheets\PER Figures\20065-FIG-0,1-PREF-ALT-EXHB.dwg FACULTATIVE IRRIGATION 7/9/2021 4:45:30 PM

PROPOSED IRRIGATION PIVOT SYSTEM

200' BUFFER

PROPOSED STORAGE LAGOON (0.8 ACRES)

90'

200'

200'

HIGHWAY 87 RIGHT-OF-WAY

TREATED EFFLUENT

REHABILITATE EXISTING LIFT STATION

REPLACE PORTIONS OF COLLECTION SYSTEM AS IDENTIFIED WITH SYSTEM TELEVISION AND INSPECTION

EXISTING STORAGE LAGOON (2.5 ACRES)

EXISTING FACULTATIVE LAGOON (2.8 ACRES)

TOWN OF HOBSON

UTICA HIGHWAY

PRIVATE ROAD

HIGHWAY 87

RAILROAD

4060

4070

4080

4090

4100

4110

LEGEND

- EXISTING SEWER PIPE
- PROPOSED SEWER PIPE
- EXISTING FENCE
- PROPOSED FENCE
- PROPOSED IRRIGATION PIPE

N

0 150' 300'

SCALE: 1" = 300'

NO.	REVISION	BY	DATE

PROJECT NO. 2020-065

PREPARED BY
WWC ENGINEERING
1275 MAPLE STREET, SUITE F
HELENA, MT 59601
(406) 443-3962
www.wwcengineering.com

TOWN OF HOBSON

WASTEWATER SYSTEM REHABILITATION

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

JUDITH BASIN COUNTY, MONTANA

DESIGNED BY: CDC
DRAWN BY: CDC
CHECKED BY: DDP
DATE: 5/13/21

FIGURE
0.1

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

Helena Sub-Area Office

790 Colleen Street
Helena, Montana 59601

Voice 406.449.5000
Ext. 4

Fax 855.576.2675

March 11, 2021

TO: Craig Carlson
Community Programs Loan Specialist, Great Falls
Montana Rural Development

FROM Justin Bailey
RD Architect & Environmental Coordinator
Montana Rural Development

SUBJECT: Environmental Report (ER) Acceptance
Town of Hobson Wastewater Facilities
Hobson, MT
Judith Basin County

I have reviewed the revised ER in accordance with RD Instruction 1970-B, which was submitted on March 8, 2022, by Drew Pearson of WWC Engineering. I have made the following determination:

Concurrence with Classification of Proposal
The project is classified as a Categorical Exclusion Involving Small-Scale Development with an Environmental Report (7 CFR 1954(B)(2))

Acceptance of Environmental Report/Environmental Documentation
The Environmental Report covers all required information and documentation per RD Instruction 1970-B, Exhibit C including but not limited to; Important farmland, wetlands, flood plain, historic properties SHPO/THPO, and endangered species. This provided Agency concurrence that the environmental documentation is acceptable.

Public Notification Requirements
No public notices are required for the categorical exclusion.

Sincerely,

Justin Bailey
RD Architect |RD Environmental Coordinator
Program Support Services, Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture

Cc: Steve Troendle, Community Programs Director, USDA RD
Drew Pearson, P.E., P.L.S, Civil Department Manager, WWC Enginnering

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION NOTICE
ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Lower Ruby River Bank Stabilization Project
November 14, 2022
Ruby Valley Conservation District
Sheridan, MT
Madison County

Existing Environmental Review Document: attached

Type and Purpose of Action

The objective of the project is to provide bank stabilization on the Lower Ruby River to reduce sediment loading while showcasing a more sustainable treatment alternative to riprap use in a high-trafficked, publicly visible stretch. The treatment will include removing an erosive headcut, creating an inset floodplain, and stabilizing the bank using a willow brush matrix. At completion, 400 feet of river bank (both banks) and 0.25 acres will be restored, and 0.11 acres of wetland will be created using ~25 whole willow clumps and ~600 willow cuttings, resulting in reduced sediment loading, improved habitat, and floodplain reconnection.

The Ruby Valley Conservation District will contract an excavator operator to carryout project implementation. The ground work will include removing the headcut with an excavator, moving excess cobbles from one bank to the other to create the inset floodplain, and stabilizing the bank with a brush matrix treatment and native vegetation. Education and outreach will include an education sign posted at the site upon completion highlighting the project and its benefits. The Conservation District will also host a project tour to education landowners on more natural bank stabilization projects.

Primary partners for this project include Ruby Valley Conservation District, the private landowner, Trout Unlimited, MT Fish Wildlife and Parks, and the contractor. The project will begin with planning and final design in June, 2022 and will be completed by December, 2022.

Explanation of the decision:

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Lower Ruby River Bank Stabilization Project.

Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review
☒The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.

☒The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
☒All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
☒Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
☒The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
☒The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt
The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Reviewed By:	**Name:** Hailey Graf	**Date:**	11/22/2022
	Title: CD Specialist **Email:** hailey.graf@mt.gov		

Approved By:	Name: Stephanie Criswell **Title:** Bureau Chief		
Signature: DocuSigned by: Stephanie Criswell 65393AABE57C4EC...		**Date**:	12/8/2022 | 2:46:09 PM MST

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Fisheries Management, 730 ½ N. Montana, Dillon, MT 59725
Phone: (406) 683-9310 Fax: (406) 683-4126 email: mattjaeger@mt.gov

Stream Protection Act (SPA 124) Permit

Date: 4 April 2022

Applicant Name: Ben Masters

Address: Town of Sheridan
P.O. Box 295
Sheridan, MT 59749

Permit #: MISC 10-22 R3

Waterbody: Ruby River

Project Name: Ruby River brush matrix on Duncan District Road

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to repair an eroding and rapidly moving streambank with a brush matrix.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has reviewed the proposed project. The project is approved provided it is carried out in accordance with the information supplied in the application, all general conditions listed on page 3 of this permit, and any special conditions listed below.

Expiration: This permit is valid for 1 year(s) from the date of issuance.

Timing Restrictions: No (●) Yes ( ) if yes see below.

No in-stream work between and .

Special Conditions:

1. The re-sloped streambank shall tie into the downstream streambank following the natural physical conditions (slope and elevation) and the downstream and upstream armoring and vegetation, respectively will remain intact following the streambank tie-in

2. The toe of streambank shall be hardened approximately 1' along the newly sloped streambank (from the beginning of the toe up to the willow clumps/bundles) with cobble for the streambank toe sized to what is common in that reach of the Ruby River.

3. Willows should be locally sourced and collected and installed when dormant. The willows transplanted shall be planted just above the elevation of the cobble in a continuous matrix with no gaps between willow clumps or bundles.

4. If willow clumps are used, willow clumps (~2 wide) will be transplanted continuously along the bank (streambank length ~50-75' long). The root ball portion of the willow clumps are to be harvested as intact as possible with native soil and shall be transplanted into an excavated well (transplant location) such that the bottom portion of the root ball is in contact with summer base flows. All clumps following transplanting into the well, shall be "watered" in with two excavator buckets worth of water.

5. If willow bundles are used, a minimum of 12 stakes per linear foot shall be planted. Willow stakes for the bundles are to be no less than 5' long and between 0.75" – 1.25" in diameter and be angled back such that the bases of the stakes intersect the ground water table at base summer flows. All lateral branches shall be removed from the stakes, except for the last foot of the terminal (top) branches, which shall overhang the cobbles to deflect flow.

6. Native wetland sod mats shall be planted directly behind the continuous willow transplants with gravel and sand overlaying the newly sloped streambank. Sod mats will be transplanted overtop the gravel and sand horizon and shall be harvested from nearby wetlands in the most intact largest pieces possible and transplanted along the entire streambank. Sod mats harvested from borrow areas shall be done in a checkerboard pattern from the borrow area to allow for minimized borrowing and recolonization the subsequent growing period. Alternatively an appropriate NRCS-approved native species seed mixed may be used.

7. The streambank and matrix may encroach on the existing channel and the channel moved laterally to the opposite inside bend, which may be used as a borrow source.

318 Authorization Review

I have reviewed the above project on behalf of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) pursuant to the Montana Water Quality Act Short-term Water Quality Standards for Turbidity 75-5-318 MCA:

○ This project **will not** increase turbidity if completed according to the conditions listed in the 310 or 124 permit. Therefore, application to DEQ for a 318 authorization **is not** required.

○ Impacts to the physical and biological environment from turbidity generated as a result of this project are uncertain. Therefore, the applicant must contact the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, 1520 East Sixth Avenue, Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, (406 444-3080) to determine project specific narrative conditions required to meet short-term water quality standards and protect aquatic biota.

◉ Turbidity generated from this project is expected to be short-term and have only temporary and minor impacts on the physical and biological environment. Therefore, compliance with the conditions stated in the attached letter outlining ***DEQ's Short Term Water Quality Standard for Turbidity Related to Construction Activity***, as well as other conditions listed in the 310 or 124 permit, are appropriate for this project.

Issuing Biologist: Matthew Jaeger

Signature:

Stream Protection Act 124 Permit General Conditions

1. Complete work affecting a streambed or stream bank in an expeditious manner to avoid unnecessary impacts to the stream.
2. Limit the clearing of vegetation to that which is absolutely necessary for construction of the project. Take precautions to preserve existing riparian vegetation. Salvage and reuse native vegetation where possible.
3. Install and maintain erosion control measures where appropriate to protect aquatic resources. Do not clear and grub land adjacent to streams prior to installing proper erosion and sedimentation controls. Conduct all work in a manner that minimizes turbidity and other disturbances to aquatic resources.
4. Plan temporary construction facilities to:
    a. Minimize disturbance to stream banks, stream bank vegetation, and the streambed by locating staging or storage facilities at least 50' horizontally from the highest anticipated water level during construction;
    b. not restrict or impede fish passage in streams; and
    c. not restrict any flow anticipated during use.
5. Provide sediment controls for drainage from topsoil stockpiles, staging areas, access roads, channel changes, and instream excavations.
6. Isolate work zones from flowing and standing waters to prevent turbid water and sediments from being discharged into streams or other drainages that flow directly into the stream. Divert flowing waters around the work zone.
7. Do not spill or dump material into streams. Store and handle petroleum products, chemicals, cement and other deleterious materials in a manner that will prevent their entering streams.
8. Do not permit wash water from cleaning concrete-related equipment or wet concrete to enter streams.
9. Do not operate mechanized equipment in any stream or flowing water unless special authorization is obtained. If special authorization is granted, the following conditions apply:
    a. Powerwash all equipment allowed in a stream prior to entering the stream channel.
    b. Clean and maintain all equipment so that petroleum-based products and hydraulic fluids do not leak or spill into the waterway.
10. Reclaim streambeds and stream banks as closely as possible to their pre-disturbed condition.
11. Restore disturbed stream banks to their natural or pre-disturbed configuration to match adjacent ground contours or as specified in the project plans. Stabilize, reseed, and re-vegetate disturbed areas. Install and maintain long-term biodegradable erosion-control measures to protect these areas until adequate vegetation has been established.
12. Restore temporary access routes and any temporarily disturbed areas to original conditions, including original contours and vegetation.
13. Dispose of any excess material generated from the project above the ordinary high water mark and in an area not classified as a wetland.

Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

SHORT-TERM WATER QUALITY STANDARD FOR TURBIDITY RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY (318 Authorization)

Dear Applicant:

This 318 authorization is the result of your recent application for a 310 permit from your local Conservation District or a 124 permit from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. This authorization is valid for the time frame noted on your permit.

This is not your 310 or 124 permit and no construction activity should occur until you have received a valid 310 or 124 permit as well as any other permits that apply to this proposed construction activity.

This authorization is the result of an Operating Agreement between the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP).

The applicant agrees to the comply with the conditions stated below, as well as other conditions listed in the 310 or 124 permit issued for this project. Signatures of the applicant and FWP are required to validate this authorization.

1. Construction activity in or near the watercourse are to be limited to the minimum area necessary, and conducted so as to minimize increases in suspended solids and turbidity that could degrade water quality and adversely affect aquatic life outside the immediate area of operation.

2. The use of machinery in the watercourse shall be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

3. All disturbed stream banks and adjacent areas created by the construction activity shall be protected with erosion control measures during construction. These areas shall be reclaimed with appropriate erosion control measures and revegetated to provide long-term erosion control.

4. Any excess material generated from this project must be disposed of above the ordinary high water mark, in an area not classified as a wetland, and in a position not to cause pollution of State waters.

5. Clearing of vegetation will be limited to that which is absolutely necessary for construction of the project.

6. This authorization does not authorize a point source surface water discharge. MPDES permit is required for said discharge.

7. Open cut creek crossings will not be allowed in flowing water. Stream water must be diverted around the open cut area (pump, flume etc.)

8. The applicant must conduct all activities in full and complete compliance with all terms and conditions of all permits required for this activity issued pursuant to the Montana Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (310 permit), the Stream Protection Act (124 permit) the Federal Clean Water Act (404 Permit), any MPDES permits for dewatering or storm water control in the construction area and any valid Memorandum of Agreement and Authorization (MAA) negotiated for this activity.

The FWP representative has determined that this project is within the scope of the programmatic Environmental Assessment prepared by DEQ and FWP for the issuance of narrative turbidity standards.

_____ Date: _4 April 2022_ _____ Date: _____
FWP Representative's Signature Applicant's Signature

Name and location of project: Ruby River brush matrix MISC 10-22 R3

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2535

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Title: Ruby River brush matrix at Duncan District Road

Division/Bureau: Fisheries

Program: Fisheries

Description of Project: The purpose of this project is to repair an eroding and rapidly moving streambank with a brush matrix.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			See 1.
2. Water quality, quantity & distribution			X			See 1.
3. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality			X			See 2.
5. Aesthetics				X		
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources			X			See 1.
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals						See 3.
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction _____

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS Not required

EA prepared by : Matt Jaeger

Date: 4/4/22

COMMENTS

1. Because this work constitutes revegetation and construction of a streambank that recently eroded no new impacts are anticipated. There may be impacts to water quality (turbidity) expected to be short-term and have only temporary and minor impacts on the physical and biological environment. Therefore, compliance with the conditions stated in the attached letter outlining ***DEQ's Short Term Water Quality Standard for Turbidity Related to Construction Activity*** are appropriate for this project.

2. The purpose of this project is to retore and improve riparian health and vegetation; a positive impact is anticipated.

3. This project is consistent with the Ruby Valley Conservation Watershed Restoration plan to reduce sediment input and improve riparian health.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR
1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION NOTICE
ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Winnett Wastewater System Retrofit and Upgrades
12/28/22
Town of Winnett
Winnett, MT
Petroleum County

Existing Environmental Review Document: Document Available Upon Request (Conducted by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

Type and Purpose of Action

Background:

The existing Town of Winnett (Town) wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is a 40-year-old three cell aerated lagoon with aging equipment, strong algae growth, and significant sludge buildup. It is likely leakage is occurring somewhere within the system and a recurrence of E. coli exceedances. E. coli exceedances have been observed from 2017, when the Town initiated sampling for E. coli, up through 2020. The existing facility does not have a disinfection system and has inadequate effluent flow measurement.

Scope of Work:

The project goal is to protect water quality in McDonald Creek and nearby shallow groundwater by rehabilitating the existing lagoon facility to provide adequate treatment and disinfection, prevent leakage of lagoon contents into the ground, and protect the health and safety of Winnett residents by replacing failing sewer lines to prevent collapse that could cause backups into basements or even street damage.

ARPA Water and Sewer Infrastructure funds will be used for engineering, construction, contingency, grant administration, legal costs, and construction administration.

ARPA Water and Sewer Infrastructure funds will be used for the following construction activities:

Wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) improvements:

- Sludge removal
- Liner replacement in Cells 2 and 3
- Replacement of a manhole and connecting piping between Cells 2 and 3
- Installation of a UV disinfection system

- Installation of a new effluent structure, a new baffle curtain and cover in Cell 3; and
- Installation of a new outfall

Collection system improvements

- Replacement of 1,180 feet of clay tile sewer main

Lift station improvements:

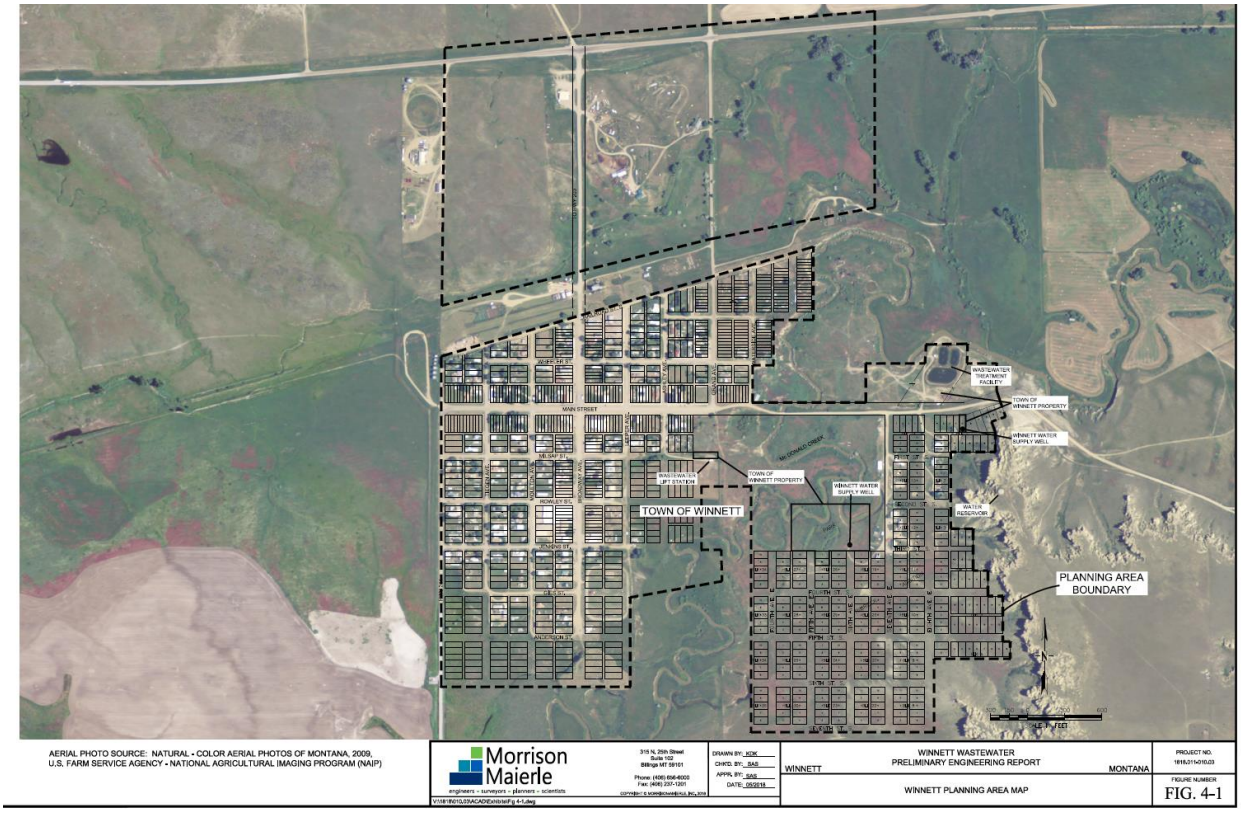
- Installation of a lift station emergency bypass
- Installation of an emergency shut-off float and chain
- Replacing a guide rail.

Substantial completion putting the new facility components into service is anticipated in January 2024 with final completion and closeout in February 2024.

Timeline:

Project Bidding Engineering Phase	Project Bidding Phase	Project Construction Phase
Completed 12/2022	Completed 5/2023	Completed 1/2024

Project Area:



DNRC will approve the grant AND/OR loan to provide funding for the Winnett Wastewater System Retrofit and Upgrades Project.

Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

☒The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
☒The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
☒All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
☒Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
☒The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
☒The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Reviewed By:	**Name:** Seth Shteir **Title: ARPA Grant Manager** **Email: seth.shteir2@mt.gov**	**Date:** 12/20/22

Approved By:	Name: Autumn Coleman **Title:** Bureau Chief	
Signature: DocuSigned by: Autumn Coleman 0777FC22FC0304D1...	**Date**: 12/29/2022 | 2:58:48 PM MST	

***Can be modified for an **EXPANDED ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Adopt with expanded information to satisfy MEPA review.

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA responsibilities. Items _____ on this adoption form required further information/analysis which is provided herein. Upon review of that analysis I find that none of the impacts are severe, enduring, geographically widespread, or frequent. Further, I find that the quantity and quality of the natural resources, including any that may be considered unique or fragile, will not be adversely affected to a significant degree. I find no precedent for the future actions that would cause significant impacts, and I find no conflict with local, State, or federal laws, requirements, or formal plans. No Further Analysis needed.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410
www.hud.gov

espanol.hud.gov

The following Suggested Format was designed to be used by those "Partners" (including Public Housing Authorities, consultants, contractors, lenders, and nonprofits) who assist HUD in preparing environmental reviews, but legally cannot take full responsibilities for these reviews themselves.

Environmental Assessment

Project Information

Project Name: Winnett Phase 1 Wastewater Facility Improvements

Applicant/Grant Recipient: Town of Winnett, Montana

Point of Contact: Dave Harris, Mayor

HUD Preparer: Dave Harris, Mayor

Consultant (if applicable): Morrison-Maierle, Inc.

Direct Comments to: Stephanie Seymanski, PE

Does this project involve over 200 lots, dwelling units, or beds?

☐ Yes (Project requires approval from the Environmental Clearance Officer (ECO))
☒ No

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
MT-CDBG-19PF-11	Community Development Block Grant	$450,000

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: $450,000

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds)**:** $2,075,000

Project Location:

Provide a street address or intersection for your project and validate the address using the button below. If the project affects a large area, such as an infrastructure or community services project, select a representative address and describe the project location in a narrative in the provided textbox. If the project location is sensitive, you may provide an alternative address, such as the address of your city hall or nonprofit in lieu of the exact location of the project.

1. Winnett Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) on East Main Street North
2. Winnett Lift Station near intersection of Milsap Street and Grand Avenue
3. East-West Alley parallel to and in between Wheeler Street and Main Street and roughly bounded by Moulton Avenue to the west and Leeper Avenue to the east
4. East-West Alley parallel to and in between Main Street and Milsap Street and roughly bounded by Tiegen Avenue to the west and Broadway Avenue to the east
5. North-South Alley parallel to and in between Tiegen Avenue and Moulton Avenue and bounded by alley noted under item 4 above and Milsap Street to the south
6. North-South Alley parallel to and in between Moulton Avenue and Broadway Avenue and bounded by alley noted under item 4 above and Milsap Street to the south

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]**:**

Provide a project description that captures the maximum anticipated scope of the proposal. It should include all contemplated actions which logically are, either geographically or functionally, a composite part of the project, regardless of the source of funding. Describe all physical aspects of the project, such as plans for multiple phases of development, size and number of buildings, and activities to be undertaken. Include details of the physical impacts of the project, including whether there will be ground disturbance. If applicable, indicate whether the project site will require acquisition or if the sponsor already has ownership.

Improvements include wastewater treatment facility improvements, clay tile sewer main replacements or rehabilitation, and lift station safety improvements. WWTF improvements consist of sludge removal from Cells 1, 2, and 3 followed by land application; liner replacement in Cells 2 and 3; replacement of a manhole and connecting piping between Cells 2 and 3; installation of a UV disinfection system; a new effluent structure; and a new baffle curtain and cover in Cell 3. WWTF additive alternatives include replacement of aeration system in the lagoons, repair or replacement of aeration piping between blower building and lagoon cells, replacement of 10 hp blowers and associated interior piping and valves, and grading berms around Cells 2 and 3and fencing improvements. Collection system improvements include replacement or rehabilitation of 1,180 feet of clay tile sewer main and installation of a lift station emergency bypass and emergency shut-off float and replacement of a pump guide rail and float chain. There will be ground disturbance at the WWTF for replacement of manhole and piping infrastructure. Cells 2 and 3 will be re-shaped prior to lining. Ground disturbance will also result if the sewer mains are replaced instead of rehabilitated. The new bypass at the lift station will cause some ground disturbance also. The sponsor has ownership of the WWTF and lift station area. The sewer mains are in public rights-of-way consisting of alleys and some street crossings.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

The underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the action and its alternatives. Describe how the proposed action is intended to address housing and/or community development needs.

The original Winnett WWTF was constructed in 1969 as a two-cell, partially-mixed aerated lagoon with controlled discharge. Aeration was provided by blowers located in the current blower building. This facility was upgraded in 1981 to include a new larger primary cell and a new aeration system for all three cells. In 1994, the lift station at the WWTF was replaced with a new lift station and force main. The new lift station is located closer to town. The existing gravity sewer outfall and lift station were removed and/or abandoned. In addition, sludge from the primary cell was removed and land applied as part of the 1994 improvements. No other major upgrades have been performed on the WWTF equipment and process.

The Winnett WWTF is a facility with controlled discharge and is required to meet the limitations of its Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit when discharging effluent to McDonald Creek. In general, the WWTF has performed well enough to meet its BOD_5 and TSS requirements of the Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit. However, the facility has exceeded General Permit winter limits in 2017, 2018, and 2020. Summer limits were exceeded in 2017 and for the one available recorded month in 2020 consisting of the month of April. *E. coli* data appears to indicate that the Winnett Wastewater Treatment Facility is not able to consistently meet *E. coli* permit limits. The facility does not have disinfection capabilities. The proposed project will enable the WWTF to comply with MDEQ discharge requirements for *E. coli*. Deficiencies are also noted in infrastructure at the WWTF including a severely deteriorated Manhole 3 and interconnecting piping. Replacing this infrastructure will improve reliability and eliminate leakage. Calculations indicate that evaporation cannot keep up with influent flow to the WWTF lagoon system and the system should be discharging year-round although it does not. Therefore, it appears that leakage is occurring within the system. Field observations have previously noted strong algae growth which suggests possible root penetration into liners and Cell 2 and 3 operating about one foot below operating levels whereas Cell 1 is at the normal operating level. Replacing Cells 2 and 3 liners is anticipated to also assist with eliminate leakage. Sludge removal and disposal must be accomplished prior to addressing these facility improvements.

For the wastewater collection system, the Town replaced a majority of the clay tile sewer mains in 1994 using PVC gasketed joint pipe. Thus, much of the existing system is in very good shape. However, there are clay tile sewer mains that are showing signs of deterioration that may lead to pipe collapse and excessive I/I. Replacing 6- and 12-inch clay tile sewer mains will address these problems. The existing lift station is in general good shape; however, there are noted deficiencies including lack of an emergency bypass and an emergency shut-off float system. Completion of these emergency lift station improvements will improve the reliability of the system and allow the Town to better respond to emergencies.

The Winnett Phase 1 Wastewater Facility Improvements Project will benefit the public through improved effluent quality through pathogen removal, elimination of leakage both in the collection system and at the treatment facility, increased performance within the collection system and at the treatment facility, and reduction of infiltration and inflow in the collection system.

Existing Conditions and Trends:

Determine existing conditions and describe the character, features, and resources of the project area and its surroundings; identify the trends that are likely to continue in the absence of the project.

The Winnett Wastewater Treatment Facility is used to treat wastewater from the Town of Winnett and has been in use since 1969. It is anticipated that this facility will continue to treat wastewater for the foreseeable future.

The Winnett Lift Station pumps wastewater from the Town of Winnett to the Winnett Wastewater Treatment Facility. It is anticipated that this lift station will continue to pump wastewater to the WWTF for the foreseeable future.

Sewer mains are installed in alleys in the Town of Winnett and cross public streets. The sewer mains in the alleys noted above will be replaced or rehabilitated. Existing sewer mains will remain in the alleys and cross public streets for the foreseeable future.

The Town of Winnett is primarily residential in nature with a few businesses, churches, local and county entities, and a school. The existing sewer collection system and the treatment facility are anticipated to still serve the Town in the absence of the project. Little change is anticipated to the project area and surroundings.

Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate. Related Law and Authority Worksheets can be found - https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4707/environmental-review-record-related-federal-laws-and-authorities-worksheets/.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.6		
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes ☐ No ☒	The closest airport to Winnett is the Winnett Airport which is located 2 miles southwest of Winnett. The project areas are not located in a Runway Clear Zone (RCZ), Runway Protection Zone (RPZ), military airfield Clear Zone (CZ), or Accident Potential Zone (APZ). References: http://www.airnav.com/airports/; airnav.com screenshot for Winnett Airport FAA Identifier 7S2 (see Appendix C)

Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes ☐ No ☒	Montana is not subject to these requirements as it has no Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) units. There are no coastal barrier resources in the land-locked Winnett area. References: Fig 4-1 (see Appendix A); Google Earth image (see Appendix C)
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes ☐ No ☒	There are no designated floodplains in the Winnett area. The Town of Winnett does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Flood insurance is not required. References: DNRC Emails, Sterling Sundheim, May 4, 2020 and May 21, 2018 (see Appendix B1); FEMA Flood Map Service Center Search screen shot https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=Winnett%2C%20MT#searchresultsanchor (see Appendix C)
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5		
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes ☐ No ☒	The proposed project is not located in an Air Quality Nonattainment zone as determined by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency. Petroleum County designation is Attainment/Unclassifiable according 40 CFR 81.327. Given that Petroleum County is in full attainment status for all criteria pollutants, the project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act. Significant deterioration of air quality is not anticipated due to the proposed project. References: Montana Community Designation Status Map (see Appendix C); 40 CFR 81.327; DEQ (https://deq.mt.gov/air/Programs/planandrule); EPA – Montana Nonattainment Summaries by County (see Appendix C), https://www.epa.gov/green-book/green-book-national-area-and-county-level-multi-pollutant-information

Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes ☐ No ☒	Montana is not subject to these requirements as it does not have a designated coastal zone. There is no coastal zone in the land locked Winnett area. References: Fig 4-1 (see Appendix A); Google Earth image (see Appendix C)
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)	Yes ☐ No ☒	The proposed project will not result in contamination or production of toxic substances, nor are contamination or toxic substances anticipated to be encountered during construction of the proposed project. Per the map referenced below, there are two open petroleum release sites near the sewer main project areas. Boreholes completed for this proposed project did not encounter any contaminated soils per the Geotechnical Report Engineering Report. Section 3.13 of Specification 01 57 00 – Environmental Quality Control outlines a procedure that shall be followed if petroleum contaminated soils or groundwater are encountered during the project work. References: Montana DEQ Institutional Controls Map (see Appendix C); DEQ (https://discover-mtdeq.hub.arcgis.com/#InteractiveMaps); Geotechnical Engineering Report for Winnett Ph 1 WW Facility Improvements, Rimrock Engineering, Inc., January 11, 2022 (Appendix D); Specification 01 57 00 – Environmental Quality Control (Appendix E)
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes ☐ No ☒	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on-line ECOS-IPaC website was consulted for a list of Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species for the project site and surrounding areas. The USFWS lists no Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species in the project areas. Reference: USFWS consultation letter, 5/1/2020, https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/, (see Appendix B1)

Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes ☐ No ☒	The proposed new UV disinfection equipment at the WWTF will require a generator per Montana Department of Environmental Quality for backup power. The Winnett area does not have a natural gas utility. Thus, it is anticipated that the generator will run off propane. The proposed propane tank will be no greater than 500 gallons in size. The proposed project will not produce explosive or flammable hazards. Most residents and businesses in Winnett use propane for heat and therefore have aboveground propane tanks. The attached tank map shows locations of aboveground 1,000 gallon or larger tanks. Typical residential propane tank size is 500 gallons although there are six residential or commercial tanks that are 1,000 gallons in size. Aboveground propane tanks with a water capacity up to 1,000 gallons that are in compliance with NFPA Code 58 (2017) are excluded from the definition of "hazard," and thereby from coverage under the 24 CFR 51 rule. Montana has adopted NFPA Code 58 (2011). It is unknown if any of the propane tanks are in compliance with NFPA Code 58 (2017). Several businesses have other aboveground tanks as documented on the image referenced below. The HUD Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD) Electronic Assessment Tool was used to calculate acceptable separation distances between aboveground fuel storage tanks and HUD funded improvements for various worse case scenarios. The lift station and treatment facility improvements area meet ASDs to nearest 500-gallon propane tanks at 245 feet and 1,015 feet, respectively. The sewer main replacement areas do not meet ASDs with worst case scenarios of 15 feet to 3,000-gallon diesel/gas tanks and 20 feet to

		a 500-gallon propane tank. However, because the sewer mains are below ground, there are no impacts to these facilities because they are not occupied by people, are not comprised of buildings, and any blast would not affect the sewer mains. References: Google Earth image with tank locations (see Appendix C); ASD Calculations (see Appendix C); https://codefinder.nfpa.org/?country=United%20States%20of%20America&nfpanumber=58; https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/asd-calculator/
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes ☐ No ☒	The sewer main and lift station project areas in the town of Winnett are located on Gerdrum-Vanda-Creed complex soils classified as not prime farmland. The WWTF is located on Harlem silty clay soils classified as farmland of statewide importance. However, in this case, improvements will occur at the WWTF which has been in use since 1969. No farmlands will be impacted by this project and no farmland conversion will take place. All collection system improvements occur within the developed portions of the Town of Winnett and replace or rehabilitate existing facilities. The treatment facility improvements occur at the Winnett Wastewater Treatment Facility. Sludge will be removed from the treatment facility and land applied to farmland. However, the sludge is beneficial to the planted crop and will fertilize such crop. Reference: Farmland Classification Map, (https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm, (see Appendix C)
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes ☐ No ☒	The Town of Winnett does not participate in the Flood Insurance Program. Therefore, there is no designated floodplain in the project areas. Engineer Morrison-Maierle prepared a McDonald Creek Hydraulic Analysis Tech Memo. This analysis developed a HEC-RAS model to estimate

		100-year and 500-year flood elevations at the WWTF since a FEMA floodplain map with flood elevations is not available for the Winnett area. The UV building will be designed to account for flood elevations for operation during a 100-year flood event. A Floodplain Management 8-Step Process has been completed which determined there is no practicable alternative to partially locating the project in the flood zone. References: Town of Winnett email, Savannah Moore, June 20, 2022 (see Appendix B1); DNRC Emails, Sterling Sundheim, May 4, 2020 and May 21, 2018 (see Appendix B1); FEMA Flood Map Service Center Search screen shot https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=Winnett%2C%20MT#searchresultsanchor (see Appendix C); McDonald Creek Hydraulic Analysis Tech Memo, Morrison-Maierle, Inc, January 28, 2022 (see Appendix F); Floodplain Management 8-Step Process (see Appendix G)
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes ☐ No ☒	The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted. SHPO noted that as long as the project occurs within previously disturbed ground and no structures fifty years of age or older are disturbed or altered, there would be a low likelihood that cultural properties would be impacted. All proposed project improvements would occur in previously disturbed ground. A cultural resource inventory was not recommended by SHPO at this time. Thus, no significant impacts have been identified to cultural resources within the project boundary based on the response received from SHPO. Therefore, there would be no anticipated cultural or historic consequences as a result of implementing the proposed project. A Section 106 consultation has been completed. No historic sites were identified by Tribes.

		Reference: SHPO email with attachments including CRABS and CRIS Reports, Damon Murdo, April 4, 2020 (see Appendix B1); see Appendix B2 for Section 106 Tribal letters and responses
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes ☐ No ☒	The proposed project would not produce noises that would need to be abated or controlled. There is no railroad in the Winnett area that generates noise, and the FAA-regulated Winnett Airport which is closer than 15 miles to the project site has fewer than 9,000 airport operations each year (130 per year per www.airnav.com) and does not represent a noise concern. Sewer main improvements will be placed below grade and will not generate any additional noise. The lift station improvements will also not generate noise nor require abatement or control. The wastewater treatment facility improvements are more than 1,000 feet from a major road. Construction noise would be minor, short-term, and temporary and would not jeopardize the health and welfare of the surrounding community nor exceed federal noise emission standards. HUD's Day/Night Noise Level (DNL) Calculator was used to complete a noise assessment. The WWTF and lift station project areas are more than 1,000 feet from a major road. The sewer main improvements are not; therefore, a noise assessment was completed at the crossing of Highway 244/Broadway Avenue. The estimated decibel level at this location which is the worst-case scenario is 66 decibels. This estimate is less than 68 decibels and does not require mitigation. References: Google Earth image (see Appendix C); http://www.airnav.com/airports/; airnav.com screenshot for Winnett Airport FAA Identifier 7S2 (see Appendix C); https://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/traffic-maps.aspx;

		https://mdt.public.ms2soft.com/tcds/tsearch.asp?loc=Mdt&mod=tcds&local_id=35-2-006&updatemap=1; https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/dnl-calculator/; DNL Calculator screenshot (see Appendix C); Winnett 2020 Wastewater PER Update (see Appendix H); Figures 4-1, 8-1, and 9-1 (see Appendix A)
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424€; 40 CFR Part 149	Yes ☐ No ☒	There are no sole source aquifers in the Winnett area. Reference: EPA Sole Source Aquifer Map for Winnett, MT Area, https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b, (see Appendix C)
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes ☐ No ☒	No wetlands will be impacted by this project. References: NWI Wetlands Map, https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/, (see Appendix C); Montana Natural Heritage Program emails, Sara Owens and Bryce Maxwell, September 13, 2020 (see Appendix B1)
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes ☐ No ☒	There are no wild and scenic rivers within 1,000 feet of the project areas. Reference: Montana Wild and Scenic River Map, (see Appendix C)
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes ☐ No ☒	There is no known increase in environmental or public health risks to minority or low-income persons due to the improvements proposed. The use of the project areas would not change with the wastewater improvements and therefore there would be no impact on socioeconomic conditions. The proposed improvements are intended to improve services to the entire community and provide safe and sanitary services to all residential/commercial facilities connected to the sewer system. No displacement of individuals, households, or the community would occur as a result of

		the WWTF and collection system improvements. Reference: EJScreen Report for Winnett, MT, https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen, (see Appendix C)

Environmental Assessment Factors [Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27]

Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.**

Impact Codes: Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

(1) Minor beneficial impact
(2) No impact anticipated
(3) Minor Adverse Impact – May require mitigation
(4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOPMENT		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The proposed improvements are compatible with existing land use. No impacts are anticipated from the proposed project on land use, zoning, scale, or urban design.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	The proposed improvements will have no long-term significant impacts to soils, slope, erosion, drainage, or storm water runoff. Temporary impacts during construction of improvements may include dust, siltation, and erosion. Best management practices would be planned and implemented by the contractor to mitigate any construction-related impacts. If ground disturbance for the proposed project is equal to or greater than 1 acre, the contractor will obtain and comply with Permit Authorization under the Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) “General Permit” and submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevent Plan (SWPPP) and Notice of Intent (NOI).
Hazards and Nuisances	2	Construction activities will result in short-term and temporary noises during sewer main work. The lift station and WWTF are

including Site Safety and Noise		further away from residences and businesses and noises from construction will not be as obvious. No permanent noise disturbances will be created because of the wastewater improvements.
Energy Consumption	2	The proposed project includes a new UV disinfection system. Energy consumption would increase due to this facility but is considered minor. No mitigation is required.
SOCIOECONOMIC		
Employment and Income Patterns	1	The proposed project will likely have a positive impact on the community during construction when construction workers utilize commercial businesses located in Winnett. Employment of local workers is also highly likely during the project. It is anticipated that the project will have a temporary, but beneficial, impact on employment and the economy of Winnett during construction.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	The proposed project will have no impacts on the Town of Winnett in relation to demographic character changes or displacement of population or groups.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The proposed project improvements will have no long-term significant impacts on educational or cultural facilities in Winnett. Local traffic control may slow transportation to educational facilities during construction for installation of sewer main improvements. This impact is considered temporary and will only occur during construction. There are no known educational or cultural facilities within or immediately adjacent to the project areas. The Winnett Public School is located south of the sewer main areas and west of the lift station as shown on the Google Earth image in Appendix B1. Google Earth image (see Appendix C)
Commercial Facilities	2	The proposed project improvements will not result in decline of commercial facilities, if any, in Winnett. Additionally, no change in production or activity in commercial facilities is anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project improvements.
Health Care and Social Services	2	No impacts to health care or social services are anticipated to occur as a result of the implementation of the proposed project improvements. There are no known health care or social service facilities within or immediately adjacent to the project areas.

Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	No impacts to solid waste disposal or recycling are anticipated to occur as a result of the implementation of the proposed project improvement. Garbage collection may temporarily be impacted by construction sewer main improvements whereby garbage containers would have to be moved from the alley to the street. Reference: DEQ (https://discover-mtdeq.hub.arcgis.com/#InteractiveMaps)
Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	1	The proposed project will have a beneficial impact on the Winnett sewage collection system and the wastewater treatment facility. Replacement of deteriorating clay sewer mains will ensure that reliable sewer service is maintained and decrease infiltration into the system and subsequent treatment. Emergency improvements at the lift station will allow for greater functionality and reliability during emergency situations. Treatment facility improvements will also increase the reliability and operability of the system and improve the treatment of effluent discharged to McDonald Creek through the following improvements: • Remove and dispose of sludge for capacity and improved TSS • Install a new effluent structure to allow multi-level operation • Line Cells 2 and 3 and replace manhole #3 and connecting piping to eliminate leakage and replace deteriorating infrastructure • Install UV disinfection and a basin cover The Winnett wastewater system will be greatly enhanced with these improvements which will also allow the system to reliably meet MDEQ and discharge permit requirements. Completing this project will assist the Town in meeting the requirements of the Administrative Order on Consent that the Town is currently under. Reference: Winnett 2020 Wastewater PER Update (see Appendix H); Figures 8-1 and 9-1 (see Appendix B1)
Water Supply	2	The Town of Winnett has two water supply wells. One is located south of the WWTF and the second well is located in a park area further south of the WWTF and east of the main town of Winnett. No impacts to community water supply are anticipated as a result of the proposed project. Reference: Fig 4-1 (Appendix A)

Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	No impacts to public safety including police, fire, and emergency service are anticipated as a result of the proposed project. As part of traffic control during construction, the contractor will notify these services where construction will occur each week to allow these services to use alternate routes as required.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	No impacts to parks, open space, or recreation are anticipated to occur as a result of the implementation of the proposed project improvements. The project areas are not located in or adjacent to parks, public open space, or recreational areas.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	Short-term delays in traffic could occur during project construction; however, traffic control will be prepared, implemented, and adjusted as needed to reduce transportation delays as much as possible. After construction is completed, no impacts to transportation networks and traffic flow conflicts are anticipated. Alleys where sewer mains will be replaced or rehabilitated will be restored to pre-existing or better conditions. Broadway Avenue is a State route. A Utility Permit will be required from the Montana Department of Transportation for the crossing of Broadway Avenue to replace or rehabilitate an existing clay sewer main.
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	1	There are no known unique natural features in or adjacent to the project areas per Google Earth. Thus, no impacts to unique natural features are anticipated to occur as a result of the implementation of the proposed project improvements. Water resources in the town of Winnett area consists of McDonald Creek of which the Winnett WWTF is located immediately adjacent to this creek. The Google Earth image in Appendix B1 shows McDonald Creek winding through the Winnett area between the town proper and the WWTF. The proposed treatment facility improvements will have a beneficial impact on McDonald Creek by improving the quality of effluent discharged to McDonald Creek. It is anticipated that a SPA 124 permit will be required from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; a 404 permit will be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and a 318 Authorization will be required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for outfall work on the bank of McDonald Creek.

		Reference: Google Earth image (see Appendix C); Winnett 2020 Wastewater PER Update (see Appendix H)
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The proposed improvements will take place within previously disturbed areas. Sludge from the treatment facility cells is anticipated to be land applied to farm fields that have been previously disturbed for agricultural purposes. The location of such fields is unknown at this time but would be determined during the design phase. Due to the urban and developed area of which the improvements will take place and the agricultural nature of the fields to be used for sludge disposal, adverse impacts to vegetation, wildlife species, and habitats (including fish) are not anticipated. Treatment facility improvements will improve the quality of effluent discharged to McDonald Creek, thus having a beneficial impact on any aquatic life and habitats in this creek. Any disturbed vegetation will be restored to pre-existing conditions.
Other Factors	2	There are no other factors that the proposed project is anticipated to impact.

Cumulative Impact Analysis:
Identify below the cumulative impact on the environment that will result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time.

The only other known local, Federal, or State action or project to occur within the project area is the MDT Main Street – Winnett road reconstruction project. MDT projects are subject to review under NEPA and Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to determine if significant environmental impacts are likely and identify mitigation measures for any identified adverse effects. The MDT project will make improvements to Broadway Avenue. The proposed Winnett Phase 1 Wastewater Improvements project will replace or rehabilitate the sewer main that crosses Broadway Avenue just north of Main Street. It is anticipated that sewer improvements will occur prior to the MDT road reconstruction improvements. Coordination has and will continue to take place with MDT to avoid conflicts at this location.

Based on the review and findings of known ongoing, planned, and proposed projects in the surrounding area, it is concluded that the project noted above would not cause any cumulative impacts in association with the proposed action. This conclusion was reached because these projects either 1) do not affect lands in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project area, and/or 2) the construction/implementation of the project is occurring or has occurred on a different timeline than the proposed improvements, and/or 3) results in de minimis (so small as to be negligible or insignificant) impacts.

Alternatives:

Identify below other reasonable courses of action that were considered and not selected, such as other sites, design modifications, or other uses of the subject site. Include the benefits and adverse impacts to the environment of each alternative, and the reasons (e.g., economic, engineering, or others) for rejecting it.

Alternatives, or improvements, are divided into two components: wastewater treatment improvements and collection system improvements. **Other Wastewater Treatment Alternatives Evaluated:** Six alternatives to address the needs necessitated by MPDES permit compliance were identified and evaluated. Of these six, three alternatives for wastewater treatment improvements stood out based on cost effectiveness and suitability to serve the needs of a small rural community. In 2012, the following six treatment processes were initially considered to address MPDES permit compliance: Treatment Process 1: Aerated Lagoon with Storage and Land Application; Treatment Process 2: Activated Sludge with Continuous Discharge; Treatment Process 3: Integrated Fixed-film Activated Sludge (IFAS) Process; Treatment Process 4: Total Retention Lagoon Treatment; Process 5: Facultative Lagoon with Continuous Discharge and Treatment Process 6: Aerated Lagoon with Continuous Discharge. Of these, the first three were considered further, while the last three were ruled out because of cost or performance reasons. As effluent requirements have been modified with changes to the Town's MPDES permit in 2018 to no longer include an ammonia limit and higher BOD_5 and TSS effluent limits as allowed under Alternate State Requirements, the treatment processes evaluated also changed to include the following two treatment processes: Treatment Process 7: Aerated Lagoon with Summer Months Storage and Treatment Process 8: Aerated Lagoon with Groundwater Discharge. Treatment processes 1 through 3 and 8 are further identified and described as follows: **Treatment Process 1: Aerated Lagoon with Storage and Land Application.** Per the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Circular DEQ-2 – Design Standards for Wastewater Facilities (1999, Circular DEQ-2), an aerated lagoon treating wastewater for land application requires a minimum of one aerated lagoon cell providing 15 days of hydraulic retention time (HRT) and one or more storage cells with a volume large enough to store approximately 8 months of flow to the facility. To meet these requirements, the existing lagoon Cells No. 2 and No. 3 could be rehabilitated to meet the aeration treatment requirement of at least 15 days under aeration, along with a new third cell with a surface area of approximately 2 acres to store the Town's wastewater for land application. During irrigation season, effluent would be pumped from the storage cell to the land application site. An irrigation pump station would be sized depending on the distance from the WWTF and the flow and pressure required to operate a center pivot. In addition to the land required for construction of a new storage cell, approximately 25 acres of irrigated farmland would be required to apply the effluent. Ideally, this land should be owned by the Town. Experience has shown that communities who depend on private property owners to accept their treated effluent may eventually face problems if the property owners refuse to accept the effluent at some time in the future. Concerns related to land application are: it requires a large area for wastewater storage and application it requires year-round operation of an aeration system it requires operation of a pump station and one or more center pivots during 4 to 5 months of the year the storage lagoon construction has a large cost for earthwork and basin liner availability/purchase of land may also present hurdles The benefits of land application of treated effluent include: it provides an alternative to discharging to McDonald Creek it allows the Town to operate the WWTF independently from water quality-driven discharge limits It eliminates concerns regarding an ammonia limit Because an ammonia limit is no longer included in the Town's discharge permit and due to the higher cost of this option, this treatment process was not considered further. **Treatment Process 2: SBR with**

Continuous Discharge. The activated sludge process was developed to provide a treatment process capable of removing BOD_5 and TSS (as well as nutrients, if needed) from the wastewater in a short period of time and in a facility with a small footprint. Treatment typically occurs in concrete tanks where wastewater is aerated and mixed in basins with HRTs between 4 and 30 hours. Recycling of partially treated wastewater through the process allows for more efficient use of the bacteria responsible for degrading the wastewater constituents. The biomass in activated sludge processes is typically suspended in the wastewater. Aeration and mixers keep the biomass and wastewater well mixed to provide uniform conditions across treatment zones. Aerated and non-aerated zones can be managed to achieve biological removal of nitrogen and phosphorous. Following the treatment process, solids settling is provided in clarifiers, where the biomass is separated from the effluent. A portion of the solids is wasted and the remainder is recycled back to the start of the treatment process. Daily solids wasting requires daily to weekly sludge handling to dewater, store, and dispose of the sludge. In addition, influent screening and grit removal are generally used in activated sludge plants to improve process performance and reliability. The activated sludge process is used in treatment plants typically referred to as "mechanical plants." As this name suggests, these types of plants include mechanical equipment to screen, aerate, mix, recycle, and separate the wastewater and solids throughout the process. These types of plants can be labor and energy intensive to operate. Activated sludge is a treatment process that is: capable of meeting an ammonia effluent limit could be modified to remove nitrates in the future if nitrate limits are included in the Town's permit it would provide the Town with a treatment process capable of reliably producing effluent in compliance with more stringent permit limits. Treatment Process 2 involves a mechanical treatment option of higher complexity. This process is reliable and capable of high level treatment; however, given the changed permitting situation for Winnett and the higher cost of constructing and operating this type of system, this high level of treatment was not considered further. **Treatment Process T3: Fixed Media IFAS Process with Continuous Discharge.** Fixed film processes have been used in wastewater treatment in various forms for many years. Fixed film refers to the use of bacteria that grow attached to media, such as rocks or plastic media, in contact with the wastewater. The media may be sprayed with the wastewater or be partially or completely submerged in it. The bacteria attached to the media remove BOD_5 and other wastewater constituents as the wastewater passes them. Attached growth of bacteria allows for growing a large quantity of bacteria or biomass for removal of BOD_5 and nutrients, without losing the biomass with the effluent. Solids settling is required for biomass that sloughs off the media. Sloughing is a normal process and necessary to maintain the optimum amount of biomass in the treatment process. Solids settling is typically provided by clarifiers. Fixed film processes can be integrated with the activated sludge process as described above. In an integrated fixed-film activated sludge (IFAS) system, both attached growth and suspended growth occurs throughout the treatment process. Using both attached and suspended growth creates a more robust treatment system capable of treating wastewater of varying influent strengths. It also allows for a smaller overall system footprint because more biomass can be developed in a smaller volume. IFAS processes that simply add plastic media to the activated sludge reactor basins require much of the same equipment as the activated sludge process described above. However, some IFAS processes use different technologies to aerate the wastewater and offer surfaces for attached bacteria growth. One option uses plastic discs mounted on large wheels which are partially submerged. The disc configuration allows the wheels to trap air when above the water and release it when submerged. The discs also provide for a large surface area where bacteria can grow. This type of IFAS process does not rely on diffused air and blowers for oxygenating the wastewater, and therefore is more energy efficient. All IFAS processes require influent screening to protect the media from debris and rags. Grit removal is recommended as well to minimize

deposition of heavy solids in the IFAS basin. All IFAS equipment requires daily operator attention to ensure proper operation and performance of the treatment process. Screenings and sludge must be disposed of once or several times per week. Energy costs for this option are generally similar to those for the activated sludge treatment process; however, depending on the type of IFAS employed, energy requirements may be higher or lower than those of a conventional activated sludge process. The IFAS process is suited well for facilities that experience large variations in flow and/or influent wastewater strength. Treatment Process 3 involves a mechanical treatment option of higher complexity. This process is reliable and capable of high level treatment; however, given the changed permitting situation for Winnett and the high capital and operational costs, this high level of treatment was not considered further.
Treatment Process 7: Aerated Lagoon with Summer Months Storage. Other improvements included with this treatment process, but not included in the proposed action are: Improvement 4 – Aeration System and Blowers Improvement 5 – Seasonal Storage Cell. These improvements are described as follows: **Improvement 4 – Aeration System and Blowers.** The existing 3-hp blowers have been providing sufficient oxygen for the biological processes, as evidenced by general permit compliance with respect to BOD. A new aeration system would be capable of providing sufficient air for the biological processes, as well as adequate mixing to reduce algae growth and resulting high effluent TSS concentrations. The air flows for operating levels down to 6 feet could be provided by a 10 hp blowers. This flow rate would also satisfy MDEQ's requirement that blowers provide a nominal blower capacity of at least 5 hp per million gallons of lagoon volume (at the full 8-foot operating level). The air flows needed to meet oxygen demand at the 4-foot operating level would require a 15 hp blower. Careful consideration of use of low-level operation would be required when ultimately sizing the blowers. Redundancy requirements would necessitate the installation of two blowers of this size. Installation of variable frequency drives is recommended to allow the operator to turn the blowers down and conserve energy when operating at lower influent flows and loads. The new aeration system would utilize bottom mounted fine bubble diffusers that can be raised, removed, serviced, and replaced without draining the lagoon basins. In order to provide better bottom coverage with the new system, Cell 1 would be served by 12 diffusers, Cell 2 would be served by four diffusers, and Cell 3 by two diffusers. Access to the diffusers would be by boat. Each diffuser would be equipped with a buoy and lifting cord that would allow for pulling the diffuser up for inspection and cleaning. The higher air flows and fine bubble diffusers will require larger air distribution piping to ensure that equal pressure is provided to all parts of the system. Therefore, the existing air distribution piping would be replaced with new 4-inch steel pipe. Wherever possible the pipe would be installed aboveground and only pipe in potential vehicle access routes between Cells 1 and 2/3 would be buried. Further monitoring of TSS should occur with proposed action improvements to evaluate the need for this improvement. **Improvement 5 – Seasonal Storage Cell.** If installation of the Cell 2 and 3 liners and rehabilitation of the interlagoon piping and manhole between the two cells results in a continuously discharging system, the Town will need to take additional measures to avoid reverting back to coverage under an individual discharge permit, which may eventually reintroduce an ammonia limit and would require the Town to apply for a General Variance from the nutrient requirements. The addition of a storage lagoon that allows for storage of three months of wastewater would prevent discharge of effluent between July 1 and September 30. This improvement would allow the Town to continue to be covered under the General Permit for batch dischargers, the least stringent of permits in Montana. A 12-foot deep storage basin would store 2.145 million gallons and would be located on the Town's property just south of Cell 1. This basin would take up the entire property and would require removal of the County shed as well as a power pole. It would be prudent to collect a few seasons of flow data after replacement of clay tile sewer mains. It is predicted that

flows to the lagoon will be reduced significantly by eliminating a large portion of seasonal I/I. The reduced flows may allow for sizing a smaller storage lagoon. Once Cells 1, 2, and 3 are filled to capacity, effluent from Cell 3 would be diverted by opening a slide gate at the effluent structure prior to the weir and flow by gravity through 8-inch PVC piping to the storage basin. Two manholes would be required in this piping where the pipe changes direction. On October 1, the gate in the effluent structure would be closed and a submersible pump station would pump the storage cell contents back to the effluent structure through a 2-inch force main. In the effluent structure the pumped flow would mix with gravity effluent from Cell 3 and overflow the weir and be metered. Since the storage basin would hold treated effluent, it would not be aerated. This scenario would have the potential to lead to algae growth over the three-month storage period. However, no mixing or cover are recommended. Both of these elements may be addressed at a later time based on performance of the storage basin by adding a floating cover or solar powered mixer. **Treatment Process 8: Aerated Lagoon with Subsurface Disposal.** This process continues to use the existing aerated lagoon but discharge occurs to groundwater via infiltration/percolation (IP) cells or a rapid infiltration drainfield. This alternative would require installation of a pump station and either I/P cells or drainfield. This option would provide a discharge option permitted under a different category and with somewhat less stringent requirements. Property would have to be purchased by the Town for construction of I/P cells or a drainfield. Previous areas considered for facility expansion included the southeast corner of the incorporated limits of Town. The I/P cells or drainfield would need to be at least 500 feet from McDonald Creek. This distance would provide a 500-foot standard mixing zone for groundwater discharge and a reasonable distance for phosphorous breakthrough calculations. Of the nitrogen species, only nitrate is regulated and would be accommodated within the standard mixing zone. A preliminary check shows that the nitrate concentration at the end of the mixing zone would likely be less than 3.5 mg/L. This concentration would comply with regulations which do not allow more than 5.0 mg/L nitrate at the end of the mixing zone. Phosphorous is regulated and has a limit expressed in years until breakthrough to surface water. Phosphorous may not leach to nearby surface water for 50 years. A preliminary calculation shows that at current effluent phosphorous loading, breakthrough would occur within less than 30 years. Phosphorous would require treatment to reduce effluent concentrations by about half to meet this requirement. Locating the drainfield or I/P cells further away from the creek would help meet nutrient regulatory requirements but would also significantly increase pumping costs. Furthermore, local topography limits the locations as the incorporated Town limits are bordered by bluffs to the southeast. In addition, land ownership would need to be determined and property purchased, which may be difficult as revealed by earlier investigations for a total retention lagoon analysis and in for the pursuit of a land application site. A cursory review of existing wells in the area suggests that soils would be amenable to infiltration of treated and settled wastewater. However, the geology, soils, and groundwater of the area would need to be studied in detail to allow for full analysis of discharge to groundwater as a wastewater disposal option. Construction of a drainfield or I/P cells in the southeast corner of the incorporated Town limits would be costly, especially when considering that a pump station and transmission main to the site would also be required. In addition, the phosphorous regulations would require installation and year-round operation of chemical phosphorous removal at the lagoon. This would add considerable O&M costs to the Town's budget. This treatment process was not considered further due to the high capital and operational cost. **Other Collection System Alternatives Evaluated: Alternative C2: Inspect Existing 15" Clay Mains**: All clay sewer mains were inspected over the course of three years from 2014 to 2016. Alternative C2 includes inspection of the existing 15-inch sewer mains in approximately five to ten years, as well as a short length of existing 6-inch cast iron sewer main. It is recommended that the remaining inspected clay sewer mains be replaced as

addressed Alternative C3-2. Replacement of the cast iron sewer main should be evaluated following completion of the inspection of this main. **Alternative C3-1: Replace 15" Clay Sewer Mains**: This alternative would replace all 15-inch clay sewer mains with 8-inch sewer mains. Implementation of this alternative would occur if TV inspection shows excessive infiltration and deteriorating mains or if additional I&I analysis demonstrates a need to replace these mains.

No Action Alternative:

Identify below the "no action" alternative, describing the most likely conditions expected to exist in the future in the absence of the implementation of any action.

Wastewater Treatment: Under a No Action alternative, the facility's current performance will not meet current effluent permit limits for *E. coli*. The facility's performance with respect to pathogen removal is erratic which leads to permit violations. Introduction of elevated levels of pathogens to McDonald Creek could increase the human health risk since the creek's water quality is to be maintained suitable for recreational purposes. In addition, likely lagoon leakage through compromised liners may cause partially treated wastewater to reach McDonald Creek via groundwater or contaminate downstream wells in the area. While further treatment generally occurs in the ground and in some studies has been shown to be very effective, resulting effluent quality cannot be measured at this facility and is unknown. It is possible that non-degradation limits are not met and breakthrough of wastewater constituents occurs. The facilities infrastructure including Manhole #3, interconnecting piping, and Cells 2 and 3 basin liners will continue to degrade and result in leakage. Under the No Action alternative, the WWTF will continue to deteriorate and effluent will continue to exceed *E. coli* discharge permit limits.

Collection System: The No Action alternative may not be a viable option in the case of the sanitary sewer collection system and it is not recommended for the Town of Winnett. With this alternative, the problems associated with a deteriorating sewer system may worsen and become increasingly frequent, especially given the age of the pipe. Debris may also plug the lines at locations of cracked and broken pipes. These problems will lower the capacity of the pipes and eventually plug them. Operation and maintenance requirements for the lines will continue to increase. Increased maintenance and cleaning may also increase stresses on the pipes causing them to deteriorate faster. Plugging sewers present a constant threat of raw sewage backing into homes creating a serious health and safety problem. If nothing is done to improve the situation, the lines will continue to deteriorate, increasing the need and cost of future maintenance and repair work. Severely deteriorated sewer mains could ultimately lead to failure and collapse of the pipe causing site safety and public access issues. Cracked and fractured pipe could lead to contamination of groundwater resources during low groundwater season which in turn could impact local wells. During high groundwater season and wet months, infiltration and inflow (I/I) can contribute to higher flows to the WWTF.

Additional Studies Performed:

McDonald Creek Hydraulic Analysis Tech Memo, Morrison-Maierle, Inc, January 28, 2022 (Appendix F)

Field Inspection (Date and completed by)**:**

Stephanie Seymanski has been on-site numerous times. Exact dates are unknown.

List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted:

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Web Soil Survey – SSURGO
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sage Joyce
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); IPaC; National Wetlands Inventory
Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Matt Waite; Air Quality; GIS
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Sterling Sundheim and Tiffany Lyden
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), Trevor Selch
Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP), Sara Owens and Bryce Maxwell
Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Damon Murdo
Google Earth
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Sole Source Aquifer; EJScreen
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
www.rivers.gov
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Crow Tribe of Indians
Fort Belknap Indian Community
Little Shell Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

List of Permits Obtained:
Provide a list of permits, reviews, and approvals that are required for project construction.

A Utility Permit would be acquired through the Montana Department of Transportation. This permit would be for replacement or rehabilitation of the sewer main that crosses Broadway Avenue in the Town of Winnett.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality would review this project. Following the review, a letter of acknowledgement to construct would be issued.

A 404 permit would be obtained from the US Army Corps of Engineers if the banks of McDonald Creek are impacted during construction of the new effluent structure. Verification of authorization to proceed under Nationwide Permit 7 (Outfall Structures) or NWP 58 (Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances) would be requested.

A 401 Certification from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for outfall/utility work on the bank of McDonald Creek.

A SPA 124 Permit from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for outfall/utility work on the bank of McDonald Creek.

A 318 Authorization from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for outfall/utility work on the bank of McDonald Creek.

Permit Authorization under the Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) "General Permit" will be obtained by the contractor with submittal of a Storm Water Pollution Prevent Plan (SWPPP) and Notice of Intent (NOI).

Public Outreach [24 CFR 50.23]**:**
Provide your FONSI/FOSI notice dissemination list. Also, describe any additional public meetings and hearings that were held as part of or were relevant to the environmental review.

Public hearings were held on June 11, 2018, February 13, 2019, and July 9, 2020. These public hearings reviewed the environmental record of the proposed Winnett Phase 1 Wastewater Improvements project. As part of the Floodplain Management 8-Step Process, a floodplain hearing was held on August 10, 2022 at the Winnett Town Hall.

The FONSI notice dissemination list is as follows:

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Crow Tribe of Indians
Fort Belknap Indian Community
Little Shell Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

Summary of Findings and Conclusions:
Identify below the main points of analysis in the Environmental Assessment. The summary should include any potential impacts of the proposed project, both beneficial and potentially adverse. The summary must also discuss any changes to the proposal necessary to avoid significant impacts.

The proposed project will have beneficial impacts to the water resources of McDonald Creek and local shallow groundwater as described previously. The proposed project will also have a beneficial impact on the Winnett Wastewater Treatment Facility and sewer collection system. Replacement of deteriorating clay sewer mains will ensure that reliable sewer service is maintained and decrease infiltration into the system and subsequent treatment. Emergency improvements at the lift station will allow for greater functionality and reliability during emergency situations. Treatment facility improvements will also increase the reliability and operability of the system and improve the treatment of effluent discharged to McDonald Creek. These improvements will allow the system to reliably meet MDEQ and discharge permit requirements. Completing this project will assist the Town in meeting the requirements of the Administrative Order on Consent that the Town is currently under.

No potentially adverse impacts have been identified as a result of the proposed project. Significant cumulative impacts will be avoided on Broadway Avenue by coordinating with the Montana Department of Transportation in regard to the Main Street – Winnett road reconstruction project. It is anticipated that sewer improvements will occur prior to road reconstruction improvements.

No potentially adverse impacts to the environmental resources in the Phase 1 immediate and adjacent areas have been identified. No mitigation measures have been identified. An Environmental Assessment is appropriate for the proposed action and does not rise to the level of requiring an Environmental Impact Statement.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
	No mitigation measures are required.

Determination:

☒ **Finding of No Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

☐ **Finding of Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature: Stephanie Seymanski Date: 11/21/2022

Name/Title/Organization: Stephanie Seymanski, PE, Project Manager/Engineer, Morrison-Maierle, Inc.

Certifying Officer Signature: Jeremy Springer Date: 11-21-2022

Name/Title: Jeremy Springer Director of Public Works

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).