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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
COUNCIL

Helena, MT 59601
January 18, 1979

Mr. Terry Carmody, Executive Director
Environmental Quality Council
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Terry:

Enclosed are two copies of FG-N-79, the preliminary environmental review for the Gartside Reservoir Fishing Access Site. The project covers the installation of pre-fabricated picnic shelters and latrines at a heavily used recreation area near Crane, Montana.

We hope this document will satisfy the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

James A. Posewitz
James A. Posewitz, Administrator
Ecological Services Division

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cc: Richland County Commission
Water Quality Bureau
State Architect
Recreation & Parks Division

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

GARTSIDE RESERVOIR

FISHING ACCESS SITE

RICHLAND COUNTY, MONTANA

FG-N-79

By: Stephen C. Joppa
Montana Department of Fish & Game
Parks Division

I. Location of Project:

Gartside Reservoir is located approximately one mile east of Crane, Montana in Richland County. Crane is located about 10 miles south of Sidney. The area is an impoundment of Crane Creek, a small intermittent tributary of the Yellowstone River. State Highway 16 between Glendive and Sidney is the primary transportation corridor in the area.

II. Description of Project:

This project will consist of the prefabrication of five picnic shelters, two single latrines and two double latrines. These prefabricated components will then be moved to the site and installed. The shelters will have a concrete floor, timber supports, a windscreen on one side and a built-up roof. Each shelter will be approximately nine by fourteen feet. The latrines, both single and double, will consist of fiberglass tanks and decks with wooden superstructures and shingle roofs. The tanks are waterproof and will be installed above ground water and the high water line. Tanks will be pumped by licensed septic tank service firms as the need arises and effluent disposed of as required by regulations.

III. Purpose of Project:

Gartside has been a popular recreation spot for Richland and Dawson County residents for many years. The Department of Fish and Game recently assumed responsibility for the area. Since the area occasionally receives high winds and is relatively warm it is felt the shelters will be of definite benefit to the recreationists. Due to the amount of concentrated use the site receives, sanitary facilities are needed.

These measures are expected to protect the environment and make the visitors' recreational visit more pleasant.

IV. Impacts of Project:

Nothing contemplated for construction under this project is expected to create any controversy. The latrines are our standard design and will be installed in locations which should not create problems.

There are no human residents in the immediate vicinity. There is one home along the road to the reservoir. Minor problems with speeding and particulate have required monitoring and dust abatement through application of dust suppressants.

No impacts of significance are expected to result from this project. No real changes in type or quantity of use is anticipated. The primary attractions of the area consist of the swimming and fishing opportunities. These attractions will not be modified.

Minor quantities of air pollution will be created by the construction activities. This pollution is judged to be insignificant.

No social impacts are expected. The area has been surveyed by an archaeologist. No significant findings were revealed by this surface reconnaissance. Impacts on surrounding towns and businesses will be insignificant.

One of the most significant impacts which will be generated by this project will be the utilization of federal money to help fund it. Federal regulations require the commitment of the site to recreation in perpetuity if federal funds are utilized.

V. Basis for P.E.R.:

Due to the minor nature of this work and the insignificant impacts which will result it has been determined that no environmental impact statement is required.