



Bear Paw Development Corporation of Northern Montana

48 Second Avenue • Ste. 202
PO Box 170 • Havre, MT 59501
406.265.9226 (voice)
406.265.5602 (fax)
www.bearpaw.org (email)

Members:

- Hill County
- Blaine County
- Liberty County
- Chouteau County
- Phillips County
- Havre
- Chinook
- Harlem
- Ft. Benton
- Chester
- Malta
- Big Sandy
- Ft. Belknap
- Rocky Boy's
- Little Shell

Directors:

- Shaud Schwarzbach
President
- Wayne Wardell
Vice-President
- Sheri Nicholson
Secretary
- Doug Kaercher
Treasurer
- Vic Miller
- Bill Oehmcke
- Bill Taylor
- Ken Evans
- Jim Ghekiera
- Rich Sangrey
- Ken Engellant
- Lesley Robinson
- Kathy Bessette
- Rick Morris
- John Allen
- John Sinclair
- Bob Rice
- Curtis Starr
- Don Swenson

Executive Director:

Paul C. Tuss

Director of Operations:

Jenny Morse

Director of Infrastructure Services:

Craig Erickson

Director of Loan Services:

Sylvia D. Murray

Loan Technician:

Brent Melle

Director of Community Planning:

Krystal Steinmetz

Small Business Development Center:

Joe LaPlante

Value Added Agriculture Coordinator:

Pam Lemer

Infrastructure Specialist:

Anmarie Robinson

September 10, 2007

Montana Environmental Quality Council
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

RE: CITY OF HARLEM
DRINKING WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
Contract # MT-CDBG-07PF-05

On behalf of the City of Harlem, enclosed please find the following document:

- NOTICE OF EXPLANATION FOR FLOODPLAINS AND/OR WETLANDS

Should you have any questions, please contact the project's Environmental Certifying Officer, Harlem Mayor Jeremy Kinyon at (406) 353-2361. Written comments should be sent to P.O. Box 579, Harlem, MT 59526.

Sincerely,

Craig Erickson
Project Manager

Enclosure (1)

Cc: File

RECEIVED

SEP 11 2007

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

NOTICE OF EXPLANATION FOR FLOODPLAINS AND/OR WETLANDS

September 12, 2007

The City of Harlem, Montana intends to undertake a project located in the 100-year floodplain. The project will include the following activities: wet well expansion and two new pumps at intake pump station, raise intake pump station at least 2 feet above flood plain, install additional piping at the existing storage/settling ponds, install two microfiltration units at water treatment plant, construct addition at water treatment plant to accommodate microfiltration units and install a chlorine leak detector, instrumentation, and controls at water treatment plant. The proposed improvements cannot be undertaken in any other location because relocation costs would exceed resources available to the City of Harlem. Failure to construct the recommended improvements would expose Harlem residents to significant risk and is not recommended by the project's engineer. The probability of a plant outage is ever increasing, which would disrupt water service for an extended period. Such an event, as well as effects of bacteria and pathogens in the water, would definitely compromise the health and safety of Harlem's 848 residents.

It is the City of Harlem's judgment that the proposed improvements outweigh consideration of Executive Order 11988. The raw water pump station is located within the boundaries of the 100-year flood plain. The pump station will be flood proofed by raising it above the project 100-year flood level, plus two feet, for a total elevation increase of not less than five feet. Impact on the floodway would not be measurable; therefore, the project engineering has determined that flood plain permits would be obtained from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and Blaine County for construction of a new pump station within the 100-year floodplain. New yard piping would be in the 100-year floodplain, but it would be buried over six feet, therefore, not impacted nor affecting the floodplain. The existing treatment plant is above the 100-year flood level and outside the 100-year floodplain. Therefore, any building addition would not affect the floodplain. A more detailed description of the project and the FEMA flood maps are available for citizen review at Harlem City Hall, 10 1st Avenue SW, Harlem, Montana.

Mayor Jeremy Kinyon
Environmental Certifying Officer
P.O. Box 579
Harlem, MT 59526

Publish
Blaine County Journal~Opinion
September 12, 2007