



BLACKFEET PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

P. O. Box 2809
Browning, Mt. 59417

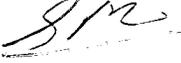
Telephone (406) 338-7406
Stewart Miller, Acting, Director
John Murray, THPO
Joe Rivera, THPO Tech

FAX (406) 338-7206
Jodi Running Fisher, Tourism Coordinator
Toni Grant, Financial Manager

March 13, 2008

TO: All Interested Parties

RE: Blackfeet Community Water Project, Phase III

From: Stewart Miller 

The Blackfeet Tribe along with the Town of Browning, East Glacier Community, Indian Health Service and others have been developing a new community water project that will take raw water from Lower Two Medicine Lake, pump it to a water plant near East Glacier, Mt. where it will be treated with an advanced ultra filtration process and distributed to East Glacier and Browning.

We are ready to begin Phase III, which involves installing a storage tank and pipeline to Browning beginning at the water plant site.

The Town of Browning has been approved for a state CDBG grant that will be part of the funding for this project. CDBG requirements for Environmental Assessment and publication of FONSI/Notice of intent to request funding is being met by sending you this information and the attached copy of the Combined Notice.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2008

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

March 13, 2008

Town of Browning
P. O. Box 449
Browning, Mt. 59417
406-338-2344

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about March 31, 2008 the Town of Browning will submit a request to the Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, for Grant #MT-CDBG-01PF-01, provided under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) to undertake a project known as Blackfeet Community Water Project, for the purposes of constructing a water line from near Lower Two Medicine Lake to the Town of Browning. This project will be constructed on the Blackfeet Reservation, in Glacier County, State of Montana. Total estimated cost of Phase I, II and III of the project is \$15,500,000.00.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Town of Browning along with the Blackfeet Tribe and Indian Health Service has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (PL 91-190) is not required.

The reasons supporting this finding are as follows:

1. It has been determined that the project will not adversely affect the endangered species in the area.
2. It has been determined that the project will avoid the areas of cultural significance.
3. The effects of the construction are temporary and there will be no long term effects on the environment.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the offices of:

Blackfeet Planning and Development
108 Government Square
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-named Town of Browning. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. .

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of CDBG project funds.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Town of Browning to the town clerk at the address specified below on or before March 28, 2008. All such comments so received will be considered and the Town of Browning will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Town of Browning
P.O. Box 449
Browning, Mt. 59417

Release of Funds

The Town of Browning will undertake the project described above with CDBG funds provided by MDOC under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. The Town of Browning is certifying to MDOC that the Town of Browning and its chief executive officer in his official capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that upon its approval, the Town of Browning may use the CDBG funds and MDOC will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to State Release of Funds

The Montana Department of Commerce will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases:

- (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer approved by the Department of Commerce;
- (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by MDOC; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental design.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, 301 S. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620.

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Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by MDOC. No objection received after April 16, 2008 will be considered by MDOC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William S. Morris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail.

William S. Morris, Mayor
Town of Browning

Date 03-10-08

P.O. Box 449

Browning, Glacier County, Montana 59417