

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
NORTH CENTRAL MONTANA REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
SEGMENT E1-A (TIBER SERVICE AREA) PIPELINE PROJECT**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date: April 12, 2010
Action: Water System Improvements Project
Location of Project: Liberty & Toole County, Montana
DEQ Funding: \$ 150,000
Total Project Cost: \$ 4.5 Million

An environmental review has been conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding construction of drinking water transmission and distribution pipelines in Liberty and Toole Counties of Montana. The purpose of the project is to bring safe drinking water from the Tiber County Water Treatment Plant to South Chester County Water District (CWD) and also to Riverview Colony. The project is sponsored by the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority (NCMRWA). NCMRWA will buy water from Tiber County Water District and convey and sell it to South Chester CWD and Riverview Colony.

The proposed action consists of the construction of transmission pipeline consisting of the following approximate quantities: 85,250 feet of open-cut 10-inch PVC pipeline; 99,500 feet of open-cut 4-inch PVC pipeline; 26,000 feet of open-cut 6-inch pipeline; 1,850 feet of directionally bored 10-inch HDPE pipeline; 3,500 feet of directionally bored 4-inch HDPE pipeline; 10 non-cased bores; 14 10-inch gate valves; 4 4-inch gate valves; 2 6-inch gate valves; 2 intermediate connection points; 16 air vacuum/release valves and manholes; 5 flush hydrants and valves; 7 1-inch flush/air blow-off valves; 1 pressure reducing valve vault; 2 meter assemblies, connections to existing pipeline systems; connections to three water system facilities; all associated fittings and appurtenances; flushing and testing; signage; gravel; and seeding.

The affected environment will primarily be a corridor beginning at the Tiber County Water District Water Treatment plant going north on Hauser Road, then east along Prospect and Ledger Roads until the Liberty County-Toole County line where Ledger Road becomes Secondary 366. Then east along Secondary 366 for 6.5 miles where the pipeline continues easterly to cross the Marias River at Latitude 48.2955° and Longitude -111.08004° then northeast and east 3.4 miles until Pugsley Road then north on Pugsley Road 0.5 miles then east along Secondary 366 for 3.6 miles then south along County Road 223 for 1.3 miles where the pipeline will terminate at a connection with South Chester County Water District. To connect to Riverview Colony, the affected area also includes a pipeline corridor in Sections 5, 8, 17, 20 and 29 of Township 29 North (T 29 N) and Range 4 East (R 4 E), Sections 4, 5, 9, 13,14,15 and 16 of T 28 N and R 4 E, and Sections 13, 15,16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, and 24 of T 28 N and R 5 E.

The DEQ utilized the following references in completing its environmental review of this project: 1) the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for Rocky Boy's/North Central Montana Regional Water System, dated December 2004 (the lead agency for the EA was the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, also cooperating agencies in preparation of the EA were the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation); 2) an Engineering Report, Project Manual and Project Drawings for Rocky Boy's/North Central Montana Regional Water System Project Segment E1-A: Tiber Ser Service Area, dated January 2010, prepared by Kadrmas Lee & Jackson (KLJ) and Advanced Engineering and Environmental Solutions (AE2S); 3) South Chester via Tiber Riverview: A Class III Cultural Resource Investigation in Liberty and Toole Counties, Montana, prepared by KLJ, September 2009. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

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Or:

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Comments on this finding or on the EA may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the date of publication of this FONSI in the newspaper. After evaluating substantive comments received, DEQ will revise the EA or determine if an EIS is necessary. Otherwise, this finding of no significant impact will stand 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.

Signed,

Todd Teegarden, Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau
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