



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P. O. Box 200901

Helena, MT 59620-0901

(406) 444-2544

Website: www.deq.mt.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-10-11

May 3, 2010

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: Bigfork County Water and Sewer District

FACILITY NAME: Bigfork Wastewater Treatment Plant

FACILITY LOCATION: Section 36, Township 27 North, Range 20 West,
Flathead County

RECEIVING WATER: Outfall 001: Flathead Lake

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0020397

This is a renewal of Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) MT0020397 for the Bigfork County Water and Sewer District Bigfork Wastewater Treatment Plant and regulates the discharge of treated domestic wastewater to Flathead Lake. Permit limitations have been developed to ensure the discharge does not constitute a new or increased source for the purpose of Montana Nondegradation requirements. Increased influent and effluent monitoring requirements will ensure the facility is in compliance with Montana water quality standards and permit effluent limitations. The mixing zone has been redefined.

In September 21, 2000, a U.S. District Judge issued an order stating that until all necessary total maximum daily loads under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act are established for a particular water quality limited segment, the State is not to issue any new permits or increase

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permitted discharges under the MPDES program. The order was issued in the lawsuit Friends of the Wild Swan v. U.S. EPA, *et al.*, CA 97-35-M-DWM, District of Montana, Missoula Division. The Department of Environmental Quality finds that the issuance of this proposed permit does not conflict with the order because the permit does not authorize any new or increased discharge of pollutants.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS June 2, 2010.

Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS June 2, 2010 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail Bree Duffy or Barb Sharpe at WPBPublicNotices@mt.gov.

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER PROTECTION BUREAU
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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
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