

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER AUTHORITY
VALLEY COUNTY PHASE 2 AND NORTH BAINVILLE PROJECTS**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date: June 10, 2010
Action: Water System Improvements Project
Location of Project: Valley, Roosevelt and Sheridan Counties, Montana
DEQ Funding: \$0.
Total Project Cost: \$5,320,000.

An environmental review has been conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding construction of drinking water transmission and distribution pipelines, water storage reservoirs and pump stations by the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority (DPRWA) in Valley, Roosevelt and Sheridan Counties.

The proposed action consists of the installation of 144 miles of PVC Pipe ranging from 1.5-inch to 8-inch diameter as well as 5 road crossings and 45 stream crossings, a 200,000 gallon bolted steel storage reservoir and 1 pump station in the North Bainville project area. The proposed action in the Valley County area includes 20.2 miles of PVC Pipe ranging from 1.5-inch to 3-inch diameter as well as 2 road crossings and 12 stream crossings, a 500,000 gallon bolted steel storage reservoir and 2 pump stations. Not listed are a number of road crossings that will be drilled and therefore will have very little or no impact on the roadway.

The affected environment in the Bainville project area is encompassed by an area bounded on the south by a line from Culbertson east to the North Dakota Border, then on the east by the North Dakota border from US highway 2 to state highway 258, then on the north by a line from the North Dakota border to Reserve, and then on the west by a line between Reserve and Culbertson. The Valley County project excludes Glasgow, but includes 4 discreet pipelines in an area encompassed by a line on the south running from the western edge of Glasgow to 10.5 miles east of Glasgow, on the east by a line from 10.5 miles east of Glasgow to a point 12.5 miles north, on the north by a line from that point 10.5 miles east and on the west by a line from that point 12.5 miles south. One of the pump stations in Valley County is adjacent to the Milk River at Longitude 106° 35' 52.944" Latitude 48°8' 36.096". The other pump stations and storage reservoirs are within the areas described above. The human environment affected will include residents and visitors of Roosevelt, Sheridan and Valley Counties in Montana. Based on the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment, including environmental commitments detailed in the EA, the project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features, or social quality.

DEQ is aware that construction of the project may uncover soils or groundwater contaminated with petroleum or other contaminants. DEQ will work with the engineer and project owner to address that issue. DEQ will require that the construction specifications contain language to assure that the contractor agrees to contact the engineer/owner of the project, who in turn shall contact the appropriate authorities, if

contaminated soil, or groundwater, is encountered and that construction methods may have to be altered and contaminated soil or groundwater may have to be removed or treated.

The DEQ utilized the following references in completing its environmental review of this project: (1) the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System, Fort Peck Reservation and Dry Prairie Service Areas, dated October 2002. The lead agency for the EA was the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation (The Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation were cooperating agencies in preparation of the EA); (2) Contract Legal Documents, Specifications and Drawings all dated May 2010 for a) the North Bainville Project Schedule 1 - Pipeline, b) the Valley County Phase 2 Project Schedule 1 - Pipeline, c) the North Bainville and Valley County Project Schedule 2 – Reservoirs and d) the Valley County Project Schedule 4 - Package Booster Station; (3) Design Report for Valley County, Phase II dated April 2010; and (4) Design Report for North Bainville Project dated April 2010. References 2, 3 and 4 were prepared by DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

Marc Golz
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Phone (406) 444-6770
Email: mgolz@mt.gov

Or:

Clint Jacobs
Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority
P.O. Box 577
Culbertson, MT 59218
(406) 787-5382
Email: dprw@nemontel.net

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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