



June 14, 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

As required by state and federal rules for determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project	Phase 1 Wastewater System Improvements
Location	Choteau, Montana
Project Number	WPCSRF Project # C304160 DOC-TSEP Project # MT-TSEP--CG-10-479
Total Cost	\$1,088,080 (Phase 1 only)

As discussed in the 2010 City of Choteau Phase 1 Wastewater System Improvements Environmental Assessment (EA), the 2008 Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), recommended that improvements be made to the wastewater collection system to reduce groundwater infiltration and that a disinfection system be added to the City's treatment system to meet the bacterial limits in the facility's discharge permit. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this project was issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality on January 15, 2010. This FONSI is a supplement to the previously issued FONSI. The purpose of this supplement is to address and publicly notice recent changes in the scope, wetland mitigation requirements, and costs for the sewer project.

Through video inspection of the collection system the City has identified two additional areas that are major contributors to the infiltration problem when groundwater is high. To eliminate these sources of infiltration, the City will slipline 274 feet of clay pipe located just east of the railroad track near the fairgrounds, and 345 feet of clay pipe that runs underneath the grade school on the westside of the city. Sliplining these sections of collection main will result in minimal disturbances to the ground surface. In addition, three sewer services will be replaced between 7th & 8th Ave N.W. and two manholes with leaking joints will be replaced. While these improvements will require excavation, they will all occur in ground that has been previously disturbed. Lastly, a new service line will be installed on the groundwater interceptor main at Rex's Market enabling approximately 30,000 gpd of flow to be removed from the sewer system. Prior to connecting to the groundwater interceptor main, Rex's Market will need to obtain approval and permits from the appropriate State/Federal agencies. The remainder of the project: sliplining 2,800 linear feet of existing 9-inch clay tile pipe on the main located between Main Avenue and First Avenue; the replacement of several service connections using traditional excavation in the northwest section of the City to eliminate infiltration; and the construction of a new ultraviolet light disinfection system on property adjacent to the existing lagoon to meet future discharge permit limits remain the same.

The UV system improvements will impact approximately 0.25 acres of wetlands. The Corps of Engineers (COE) requires that the wetland be replaced at a ratio of 1.5:1 (or 0.375 acres). To meet this requirement the City proposes to purchase a wetland mitigation credit through the Montana Mitigation Partners (MMP). The MMP will work closely with the COE and will undertake all work and assume all responsibility for the mitigation project.

The additional sliplining, sewer service replacements, manholes, groundwater interceptor main service connection, and wetland mitigation will increase project costs by \$44,350 to \$1,088,080. The City will fund the project using a \$500,000 Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) grant; a \$100,000 Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) grant; and a \$488,080 loan from the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund program. Of the loan amount, \$142,400 will be forgiven, with the remaining \$345,680 having an interest rate of 3.75% for 20 years. The loan forgiveness portion will more than offset any increase in project costs as discussed above.

Except for these minor changes, all aspects and conclusions made in the 2010 Environmental Assessment remain accurate.

The environmental review record, including the 2010 Environmental Assessment, and the original FONSI, are available for public examination during normal working hours at the following locations:

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Since the revisions discussed above are minor and do not cause any significant adverse environmental impacts, the MDEQ has concluded that the proposed project complies with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

Sincerely,



Todd Veegarden, Bureau Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau
Planning Prevention & Assistance Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality