



September 30, 2011

Alan Woodmansey
Operations Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601-9785

Subject: Re-Evaluation of Environmental Document
IM 15-7(36)339
Conrad Rest Area
Control Number: 6883

Dear Alan,

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Environmental Services Bureau has reviewed the subject project and concluded that the previously approved Categorical Exclusion for the Conrad I-15 Interchange project remains valid for the subject project under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.129(c). The original categorical exclusion addressing construction of a new rest area was approved April 17, 2008, and is attached. This proposed action also continues to qualify as a categorical exclusion under the provisions of ARM 18.2.261 (Sections 75-1-103 and 75-1-201, M.C.A.). This determination is based on the following information.

MDT has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Conrad. This attached MOU stipulates that the City of Conrad's public water and sanitary sewer services will be extended beneath I-15 to provide service to the new rest area. The size of the utilities installed with this project will be upgraded to allow for additional capacity needs by the City of Conrad east of the Interstate. While no specific areas for growth have been identified, MDT has reviewed the resources present in the general area. As a result, we have updated the biological, cultural, hazardous waste etc. reports and found that in accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(a), this action will still neither individually or cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts.

In accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) concurrence letter of April 15, 1999, this notification documents that this proposed action is still properly classified as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(d).

Sincerely,

Heidi Bruner, P.E.
Engineering Section Supervisor
Environmental Services Bureau

Attachments: April 14, 2008 Categorical Exclusion
August 8, 2011 Memorandum of Understanding

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Alan Woodmansey
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e-copy: Michael P. Johnson, Great Falls District Administrator
Jake Goettle, P.E., Design-Build Engineer
Kevin Christensen, P.E., Construction Engineer
Paul R. Ferry, P.E., Highways Engineer
Tom S. Martin, P.E., Environmental Services Bureau Chief
Heidy Bruner, P.E., Environmental Services Bureau Engineering Section Supervisor
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Moriah Thunstrom, P.E., Field Services Engineer
Montana Legislative Branch Environmental Quality Council (EQC)

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