



Brian Schweitzer, Governor
Richard H. Opper, Director

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NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
TOWN OF COLUMBUS, MONTANA

WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

JANUARY 4, 2012

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above-named project. The project consists of the replacement of existing cast iron and asbestos cement water mains with new PVC pipe. The existing water mains have outlived their useful life and have a history of major breaks and leaks. The project involves the installation of approximately 8130 lineal feet of PVC water main, along with valves, fittings, fire hydrants, replacement service lines and other appurtenances. The project locations are:

1. 3rd Avenue, 590 lineal feet of water main beginning at the intersection of 8th Street (Allen) and extending east along 3rd Avenue North to the alley between 9th Street and 10th Street.
2. Carr Avenue, 1345 lineal feet of water main beginning at the intersection of Quarry Road and extending east along Carr Avenue to 3rd Street.
3. 10-inch water main, 1415 lineal feet beginning at the existing water main stub at the northwest corner of Granite Peak Park and extending east along the north and east edges to the stub located to the west of Highway 78, in line with 8th Avenue.
4. 2nd Avenue North, from the intersection of "C" Street east approximately 2100 lineal feet to the intersection of 3rd Street.
5. 1st Avenue North, from the intersection of 10th Street east approximately 790 lineal feet to the intersection of 12th Street.
6. 12th Street, from the intersection of 1st Street north approximately 740 lineal feet to the intersection of 3rd Avenue North.
7. 3rd Avenue South, from the entrance to the golf course east approximately 1150 lineal feet to the corner of the road, where an existing stub is located.

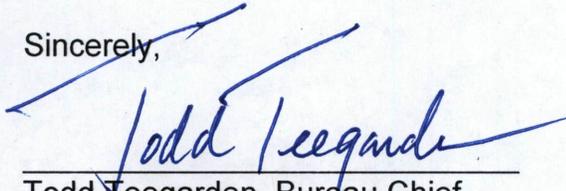
Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the department has concluded that the proposed project meets the categorical exclusion criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

The documentation for this categorical exclusion is available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Columbus Town Hall
408 East 1st Avenue North
Columbus, MT 59019

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Teegarden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: Columbus Water Main Replacement Project. Replacement of existing cast iron and asbestos cement water mains with new PVC pipe. The existing water mains have outlived their useful life and have a history of major breaks and leaks.

Date: January 4, 2012

Reviewer: Gary J. Wiens, P.E.

The Department action under Title 75, chapter 5, part 11 and or chapter 6, part 1 or 2, MCA, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

- No 1. minor upgrading;
- No 2. minor expansion of system capacity;
- Yes 3. rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components;
- No 4. construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
- No 5. projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

- No 6. the action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;
- No 7. the action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;
- No 8. the action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;
- No 9. the action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;
- No 10. the action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

No 11. the department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

No 12. the department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 17.4.608, or might possibly affect:

- (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
- (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items 13 - 17 as follows:

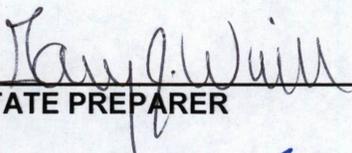
[Once all steps 1- 17 are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

- 13. Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.
- 14. DEQ determination of Categorical Exclusion.
- 15. DEQ distributes the Notice of Determination.
- 16. Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.
- 17. Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

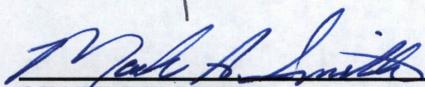
(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below 18 - 21 if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

- 18. the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;
- 19. the proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;
- 20. new evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- 21. state, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

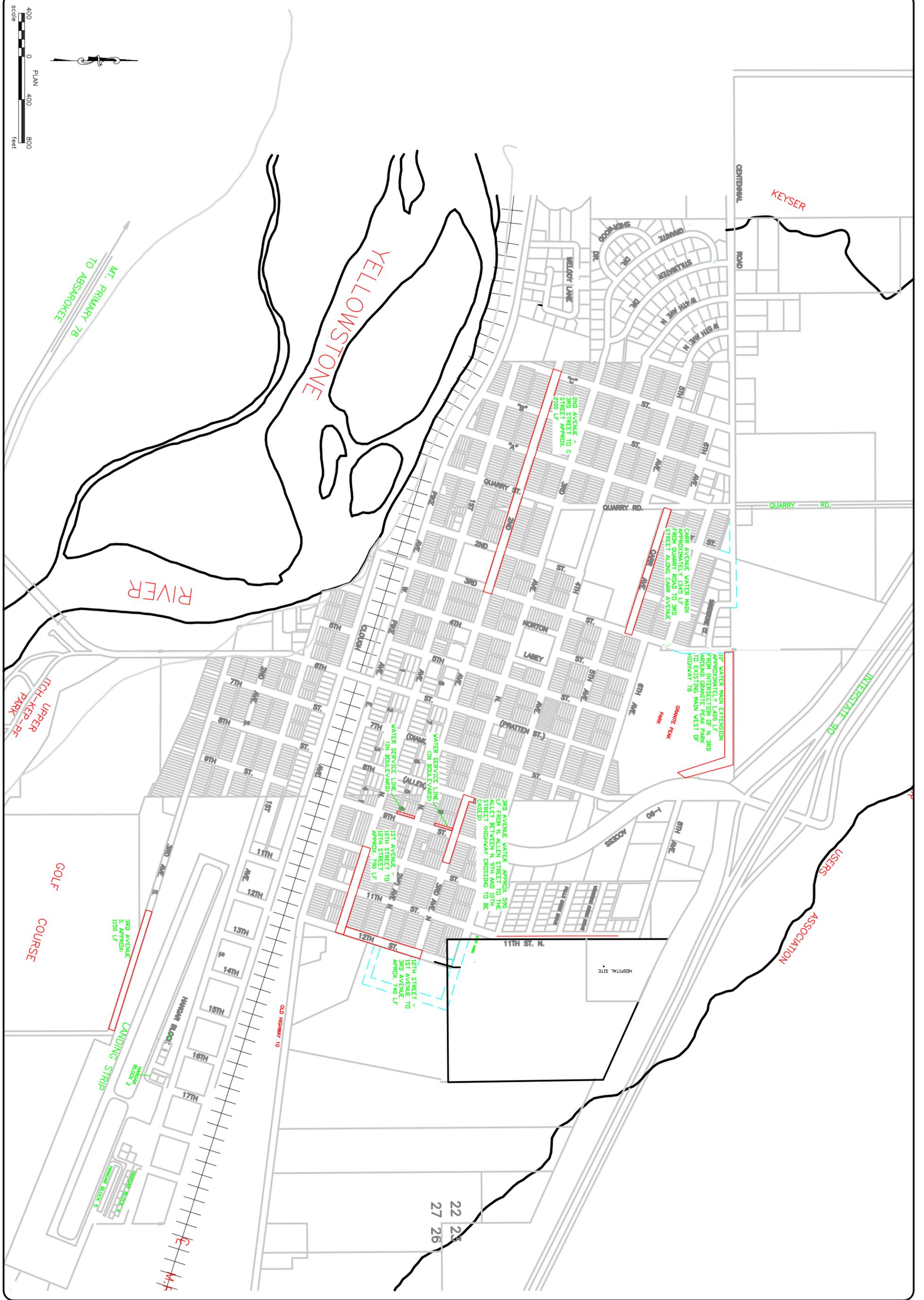
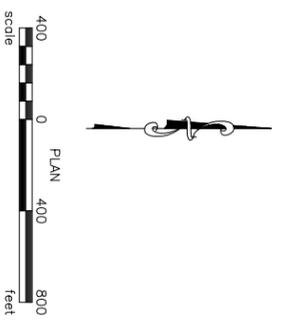


STATE PREPARER



STATE REVIEWER

COMPLETION DATE



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OF 1



Interstate engineering, inc.
Engineering - Surveying - Planning

COLUMBUS WATER PROJECT LOCATION MAP	
COLUMBUS, MONTANA	
Drawn By <u>JRB</u>	Project No. <u>Y11-00-025</u>
Checked By _____	Date <u>JANUARY 2012</u>

Revision No.	Date	By	Description