



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-12-36
July 9, 2012

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: City of Helena

FACILITY NAME: City of Helena Wastewater Treatment Facility

FACILITY LOCATION: 2108 Custer Avenue East, Helena, MT 59601

COUNTY: Lewis and Clark

RECEIVING WATER: Prickly Pear Creek

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0022641

This is a reissuance of the MPDES permit for the City of Helena Wastewater Treatment Facility. The facility continuously discharges into Prickly Pear Creek via an effluent ditch. The permit contains existing effluent limits for BOD₅, TSS, *E. coli.*, and ammonia. New limits for copper and zinc, load limits for nitrogen and phosphorus, and increased monitoring requirements are incorporated into the permit. The permit also incorporates nutrient trading as a way to promote nonpoint source nutrient reductions within the Lake Helena watershed. Monitoring of the effluent is required at the end of the treatment train, prior to discharge to the effluent ditch.

On September 21, 2000, a U.S. District Judge issued an order stating that until all necessary total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) 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 permitted discharges under the MPDES program. The order was issued in

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the lawsuit Friends of the Wild Swan v. U.S. EPA, et al., CV 97-35-M-DWM, District of Montana, Missoula Division. The DEQ finds that the issuance of this proposed permit does not conflict with the order because it is not a new permit and a TMDL has been completed and is incorporated into the permit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited **ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS August 8, 2012.** 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 August 8, 2012** 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 David Dunbar 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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