



Brian Schweitzer, Governor
Richard H. Opper, Director

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • www.deq.mt.gov

August 24, 2012

Julie French, Clerk
Town of Flaxville
P.O. Box 62
Flaxville, MT 59222

RE: Flaxville 2012 Water System Improvements Project

Dear Julie:

An environmental review of the above-referenced project has been completed by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program. Based on this review, it has been determined that the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion from further environmental review. A copy of the Notice of Categorical Exclusion for this project is enclosed. Please print the notice in at least one publication of your local newspaper, under legal advertising, and return a copy of the proof of advertisement to this office. Please have the notice, the Preliminary Design Report and the Contract Documents and Specifications available for public review at your office. We have distributed the notice to the enclosed list of agencies.

If you have any questions regarding this process or the project in general, please email me at mgolz@mt.gov or call me at (406) 444-6770.

Sincerely,

Marc Golz, P.E.
Senior Engineer
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program
Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau

Encl

Cc: Greg Lukasik, Great West Engineering



Brian Schweitzer, Governor
Richard H. Opper, Director

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • www.deq.mt.gov

NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
FOR
TOWN OF FLAXVILLE, MONTANA
2012 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
8/23/2012

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above-named project. The project includes installing water meters, replacing fire hydrants, installing auxiliary valves all within the existing distribution system and replacing sand separators in the treatment facility in Flaxville, Montana. The Town will: replace 61 water meters (many of which are failing), replace seven fire hydrants, install auxiliary valves on each of the seven hydrant leads, and replace two existing valves and add two new distribution valves. Within the water treatment facility, Flaxville must replace two sand separators where one has already failed and the other is near failure. These improvements are needed to keep the water system in good working order and to allow the treatment process to function properly.

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 the Categorical Exclusion is available for public review at the following locations:

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

Town of Flaxville
P.O. Box 62
401 First Avenue
Flaxville, MT 59222

Sincerely,

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

CHAPTER III – ATTACHMENT D

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: FLAXVILLE WATER METERS, HYDRANTS, VALVES
SAND SEPARATORS

Project Number: _____

Date: 8/23/2012

Preparer: M. GOLZ

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).]

- YES. 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;

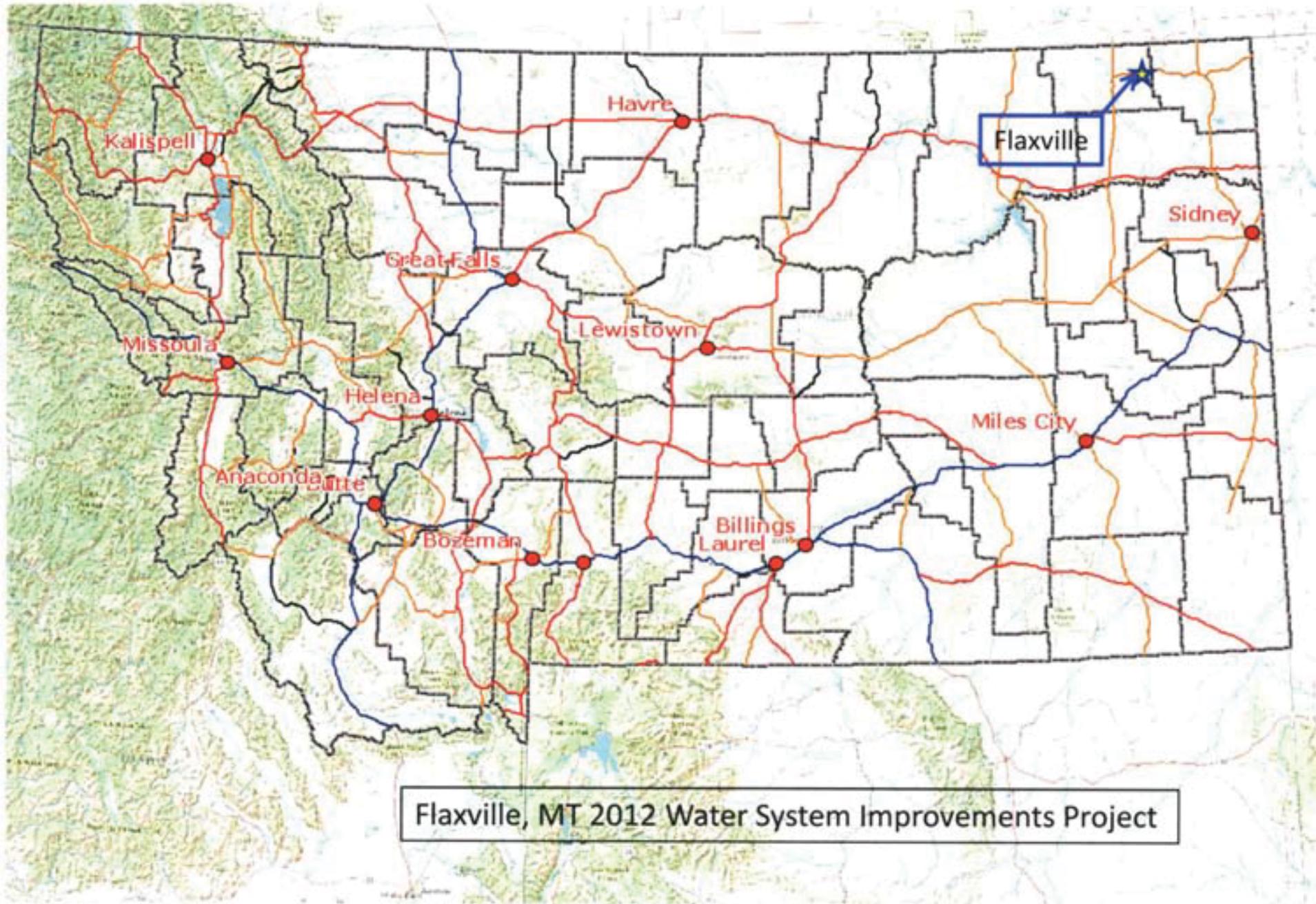
20. new evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

21. state, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

M. GOLTZ
STATE PREPARER

[Signature]
STATE REVIEWER

COMPLETION DATE



Flaxville, MT 2012 Water System Improvements Project

