

**COMBINED NOTICE
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and
NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS
(FONSI/NOI/RROF)**

November 21, 2012

Pondera County
20 4th Avenue SW
Conrad, MT 59425
406-271-4010

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or before December 11, 2012 the above-named Pondera County will request the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC) to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) for the following project:

Brady Water System Improvements
CDBG Project Title or Name

The project consists of replacing water mains, fire hydrants, water valves and construction of a 125,000 gallon elevated water storage tank.
Purpose or Nature of the CDBG Project

The project is proposed for the Community of Brady, in Pondera County, Montana

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named Pondera County has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for the decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows:

- The proposed project has minimal impact on the human and natural environment.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-named Pondera County. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of CDBG project funds.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by Pondera County to the Pondera County Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Christiaens on or before December 6, 2012. All such comments so received will be considered and Pondera County will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Release of Funds

The County of Pondera will undertake the project described above with CDBG funds provided by DOC under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Pondera County is certifying to DOC that Pondera County Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Christiaens, in his official capacity as comissioner consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that upon its approval, Pondera County may use the CDBG funds and DOC will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to State Release of Funds

The Department of Commerce will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases:

- (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer approved by the Department of Commerce;
- (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DOC; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental design.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, 301 S. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620.

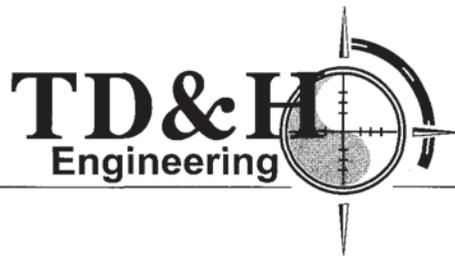
Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by DOC. No objection received after December 26, 2012 will be considered by DOC.

Pondera County Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Christiaens

Name of Environmental Certifying Officer

November 21, 2012

20 4th Avenue SW
Conrad, Montana 59425



November 15, 2012

Montana Environmental Quality Council
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620 - 1704

RE: Brady Water System Improvements FONSI

Thomas, Dean & Hoskins has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Community of Brady for their proposed water system improvements. As part of the project, a *Combined Notice Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice to Public of Request for Release of Funds* (FONSI/NOI/RROF) will be advertised in the Conrad Independent Observer on November 21, 2012 requesting public comment.

The proposed improvements include replacing the existing water mains with new mains. These mains will be installed in the existing alignment or immediately adjacent to the existing pipe. Included are new valves, fire hydrants and construction of a 125,000 gallon elevated water storage tank. The water storage tank will be constructed on the northeast side of the community on land owned by the Dutton-Brady School District.

A copy of the EA is available at the office of Pondera County Commissioner, Joseph Christiaens as well at our office for your review. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

THOMAS, DEAN & HOSKINS, INC.



Debi A. Pace, Grant Administrator

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