



Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Steve Bullock, Governor
Tracy Stone-Manning, Director

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

September 18, 2013

Mayor Dan Murnion
247 N. 9th Avenue
PO Box 226
Forsyth, MT 59327-0226

Re: City of Forsyth Sewer Main Replacement, Categorical Exclusion, WPCSRF No. C304142

Dear Mayor Murnion:

An environmental review of the above referenced project has been completed by the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund 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 Publication 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 and the Wastewater Facilities Plan Preliminary Engineering Report prepared for the City's wastewater system improvements and the project contract documents 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, you can call me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Michele Marsh, P.E.
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau
mmarsh@mt.gov
406.444.5322

Enclosure

cc (e-mail): Richard Selensky, PE, DOWL HKM, Billings
Doris Pinkerton, City of Forsyth



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NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
CITY OF FORSYTH, MONTANA
SRF #: C304142
SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT

September 18, 2013

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above-named project. The project consists of sanitary sewer main replacement between Main Street and Cedar Street, extending from 1st Avenue to 12th Avenue in two adjacent areas. These areas, identified as Area A and Area A-1, are located north of the railroad tracks in the City of Forsyth. Construction entails replacement of approximately 7,000 lineal feet of sewer main and 27 manholes. Areas A and A-1 have been identified as the most critically deficient areas in the sewer collection system. These areas have a history of backups into homes and require much higher than normal maintenance. The existing vitrified clay pipe (VCP) is subject to cracking, offset joints, collapsed sections, and poor service connections, all of which are contributing factors to infiltration into the collection system. Less than minimum recommended slopes on the sewer pipe lead to debris accumulation due to solids settling out. As a result of replacing the VCP with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe, extraneous flows to the wastewater treatment plant and the number of backups into homes will be reduced. Petroleum-contaminated soils and groundwater are expected to be encountered during construction and will be handled and disposed of according to DEQ-approved specifications and protocol.

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 Categorical Exclusion may be revoked if the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the Preliminary Engineering Report, a new or modified application is submitted, new evidence demonstrates serious local or environmental issues exist, or state, local, tribal, or federal laws are violated.

The documentation for the 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

City of Forsyth Government Offices
247 North 9th Avenue
Forsyth, MT 59327-0226

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: Forsyth Wastewater System Improvements

Project Number: C304142

Date: 12-7-12

Preparer: Michele Marsh

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).]

- 1. minor upgrading;
- 2. minor expansion of system capacity;
- X yes 3. rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components;
- 4. construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
- 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.]

yes 13. Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

yes 14. DEQ determination of Categorical Exclusion.

yes 15. DEQ distributes the Notice of Determination.

yes 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.

Michelle Marsh 9/18/13
STATE PREPARER

Melby St. Lawrence
STATE REVIEWER

COMPLETION DATE