

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PLANNING, PREVENTION AND ASSISTANCE DIVISION



MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR

LEE METCALF BUILDING
1520 EAST SIXTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 444-6697
fax (406) 444-6836

October 15, 1998

PO BOX 200901
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0901

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE CITY OF WHITEFISH
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Action: Whitefish Water System Improvements Project
Location of Project: Whitefish, Montana
SRF Funding: \$6,239,000
Total Project Cost: \$6,262,000

RECEIVED

OCT 16 1998

**ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

An environmental review has been conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for proposed funding for improvements to the city of Whitefish water system. The proposed improvements include construction of a surface water treatment plant near the Haskill Reservoir, a raw water intake and pumping station on Whitefish Lake and a transmission main to deliver untreated water from the lake to the plant. The new intake will include construction of an inlet and piping in Whitefish Lake and construction of a pumphouse on the shore of Monks Bay. The water treatment plant will be located adjacent to the existing city reservoir in the south half of the north half of Section 19, Township 31 North, Range 21 West, Flathead County, Montana. This project would significantly improve the city's ability to provide safe drinking water to its residents.

Based on the environmental assessment the project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features or social quality.

This project will be funded with low-interest loans from federal and state funds through the Montana Drinking Water Revolving Fund Loan Program, jointly administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana Department of Natural Resources.

An environmental assessment that describes the project and analyzes the impacts in more detail is available for review by contacting:

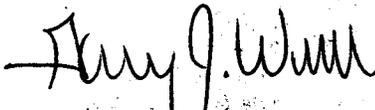
Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Gary J. Wiens, P.E.
1520 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

or

City of Whitefish
Attn: John C. Wilson, P.E.
418 East Second Street
P.O. Box 158
Whitefish, MT 59937

Comments on this finding or on the environmental assessment may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than November 23, 1998. After evaluating all substantive comments received, the department will revise the environmental assessment or determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary. Otherwise, this finding of no significant impact will stand unless substantive comments are received during the comment period or unless substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Sincerely,



Gary J. Wiens, P.E.
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program
Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau