

PLANNING, PREVENTION & ASSISTANCE DIVISION

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November 23, 1998

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

As required by state and federal rules for determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project	Harrison Wastewater Treatment Facility
Location	Harrison, Montana
Project Number	C303139-AA
Total Cost	\$1,500,000.00

Madison County, through the 1998 Wastewater Facility Plan, has identified the need to build sewer infrastructure and a wastewater treatment facility to serve the community of Harrison. The unincorporated community is currently served by individual on-site septic systems and wells. The existing septic systems discharge to the shallow groundwater in close proximity to the water supplies, and do not adequately treat wastewater to the level necessary. Therefore, it is recommended that a collection system and treatment facility be built. Madison County initiated the 1998 wastewater facility plan to address possible public health threats as well as in response to an order by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences dated March 3, 1995 to replace the septic tank and drainfield serving the Harrison School. The recommended alternative is to construct a gravity sewage collection system, a lift station, a 2-cell facultative treatment lagoon and spray irrigation facility. The existing septic tanks and drainfields would be abandoned in place. Anticipated funding for the project is through a Community Development Block-Grant (CDBG), the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) Grant, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Hardship Grant, and either a Rural Development Loan/State Revolving Fund (SRF) Interim Loan combination or an SRF Loan. Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as historical sites, wetlands, floodplain and threatened or endangered species are not expected to be adversely impacted as a result of the proposed project. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified. An environmental assessment which describes the project and analyzes the impacts in more detail is attached to this Finding of No Significant Impact.

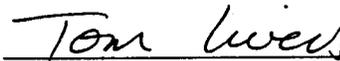
These documents are available for public scrutiny at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Madison County
P.O. Box 278
Virginia City, MT 59755

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted for consideration by the Department of Environmental Quality. After evaluating the comments received, the agency will make a final decision. However, no administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Sincerely,



Tom Livers, Bureau Chief
Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau
Planning, Prevention & Assistance Division