



Montana Department of Transportation

2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

County FERGUS

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June 16, 2005

JUN 17 2005

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Cooperating Agency Environmental Documentation

As a Cooperating Agency under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.111 the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is providing you a copy of this project's environmental documentation.

This environmental documentation complies with the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(a) and (d) for categorically excluding this proposed project from further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.) documentation requirements. The attached also complies with the provisions of 75-1-103 and 75-1-201, MCA (see ARM 18.2.237 and 18.2.261, MEPA "Actions that qualify for a Categorical Exclusion" as applicable to the MDT).

If you have any questions concerning the attached environmental documentation please call the MDT Environmental Services Division at (406) 444-7228.

Sincerely,

Jean A. Riley, P.E.
Engineering Bureau Chief
Environmental Services Division

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Attachment



Montana Department of Transportation

Jim Lynch, Director
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

2701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 201001
Helena MT 59620-1001

May 17, 2005

Carl James - Program Development Engineer
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
2880 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59602

MASTER FILE
COPY

Subject: STPP 43-1(20)21
Slide Repair - NE of Hilger
Control No.: 4378

Environmental Services has reviewed the above-proposed project's impacts and has determined that this proposed project still qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(d). The original categorical exclusion was signed March 8, 2004. This proposed action also continues to qualify as a categorical exclusion under the provisions of ARM 18.2.261 (Sections 75-1-103 and 75-1-201, M.C.A.). This determination is based on the following:

The expansion of this project has been reviewed, and no substantial changes to impacts on resources will occur. The additional work extends this project 40 meters (~130 ft.) southwesterly from its beginning at station 92+00 for flattening slopes. Also, 60 m (~195 ft.) has been added to the original end at project at station 98+20 for a snowplow "turn-around" area at the junction of Hala Road and U.S. highway 191. As a result of these extensions, the biological and cultural resources impacts have been reviewed accordingly. These additional areas were also checked for Important Farmlands. The beginning portion of the project does contain Farmlands that would be Prime if Irrigated. However, it was not currently under irrigation and the MDT does not anticipate that this area will be under irrigation prior to the project's construction. Therefore, these modifications result in only minor effects on those resources items noted above

In accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) concurrence letter of April 15, 1999, this notification documents that this proposed action is still properly classified as a CE under the provisions of 23 CFR 771.117(d).

S:\PROJECTS\BILLINGS\4378\A740\Recert Letter


_____, Date: 5/17/05
Thomas L. Hansen, P.E.

Concur 
_____, Date: 19 May 05
Federal Highway Administration

- cc: Bruce H. Barrett, Administrator Billings District
- Paul Ferry, P.E. – Highway Engineer
- Thomas S. Martin, P.E. – Consultant Design Engineer
- John Horton, Right-of-Way Bureau Chief
- David W. Jensen, Supervisor - Fiscal Programming Section
- Suzy Althof, Supervisor - Contract Plans Section
- Jean Riley, P.E. – Environmental Services Bureau Chief
- File