



**Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

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

January 20, 2006

Town of Plains
Michael Brinson, Mayor
P.O. Box 567
Plains, MT 59859

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2006

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

Dear Mayor Brinson:

Enclosed is a copy of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed improvements to the Town of Plains water system to be financed by the proposed Drinking Water SRF loan. The proposed loan will help finance the installation of a new Well No. 1 50 hp vertical turbine pump and motor, well house expansion and piping, 100 feet of 8-inch water transmission main and all associated controls, telemetry, and appurtenances. The project also includes the purchase of an emergency backup generator. Please print the FONSI in at least one publication of your local newspaper under legal advertising and return a copy of the proof of advertisement to me. You do not have to print this letter. This notice must be posted and a 30-day public comment period provided prior to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) plan and specification approval. The references used to conduct the environmental assessment were: a Uniform Environmental Checklist for Montana Public Facility Projects, a Uniform Application for Montana Public Facility Projects both prepared by Professional Consultants Inc.; and an environmental checklist completed by the DEQ. In addition to these references, letters were sent to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Responses have been received from the MDEQ, MDT, USFWS, and SHPO.

If you have any comments on the FONSI or additional information that you think should be considered, please call me.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Ashton,
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau
Drinking Water SRF Loan Program
406.444.5316
rashton@mt.gov

Cc: Tom Hanson, P.E., PCI

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
TOWN OF PLAINS, MONTANA
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date: January 20, 2006
Action: Funding Drinking Water System Improvements
Location of Project: Town of Plains, Montana
DEQ Funding: \$281,000.
Total Project Cost: \$281,000.

An environmental review has been conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for proposed funding for improvements to the Town of Plains' water system. The project involves the installation of a new Well No. 1 50 hp vertical turbine pump and motor, well house expansion and piping, 100 feet of 8-inch water transmission main and all associated controls, telemetry, and appurtenances. The project also includes the purchase of an emergency backup generator. The purpose of the project is to make improvements to the Town's water system needed to protect public health.

The affected environment will primarily be the Town of Plains, and the immediate vicinity. The human environment affected will include residents and visitors of the aforementioned areas. Based on the environmental assessment (EA), 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 a low interest loan through the Montana Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The loan will be repaid by a General Obligation Bond tax assessment.

The DEQ utilized the following references in completing its environmental review of this project: a Uniform Environmental Checklist for Montana Public Facility Projects and a Uniform Application for Montana Public Facility Projects (dated June 2005) both by Professional Consultants Inc., the Town of Plains' consulting engineer; and an environmental checklist completed by the DEQ. In addition to these references, letters were sent to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Responses have been received from the USFWS, MDT and SHPO. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

Robert Ashton
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Phone (406) 444-5316
Email: rashton@mt.gov

Comments on this finding or on the EA may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. After evaluating substantive comments, DEQ may revise the EA or determine if an EIS is necessary. This finding will stand if no substantive comments are received during the 30-day comment period or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd Teegarden". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Todd Teegarden, Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau

cc: Tom Hanson, P.E., PCI
Anna Miller, DNRC

TOWN OF PLAINS
WELL # 1 IMPROVEMENTS
CHAPTER IV - ATTACHMENT A

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

The following questions have been developed to assist DEQ in conducting its environmental review of DWSRF projects. This checklist should be completed by the review engineer utilizing personal knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise along with the PER and Uniform Application EA checklist.

Additional space for comments is provided under the heading Discussion and References. In narrative form, the DEQ reviewer should describe the problem(s) judged to be environmentally significant. The DEQ reviewer should reference the source of judgment. As an example, this could be an expert biological opinion or the comments of a local or county planner.

This checklist should also be used as a reference when preparing an EA report. Significant issues should be evaluated further and where appropriate, discussed in an EA report. Alternatives, which avoid adverse impacts, should be considered. Mitigation measures to overcome impacts should be adopted. Unavoidable adverse impacts should be identified.

[Instructions: Write in the appropriate response on the line adjacent to the checklist item (i.e. yes, no, NA, PA (possibly adverse), U (unknown), NK (none known) or any other appropriate comment). Use comment area at end of checklist to explain as appropriate.]

1. Physical Aspects - Topography, Geology and Soils

- a. Are there physical conditions (e.g., steep slopes, shrink-swell soils, etc.) that might be adversely affected by or might affect construction of the proposed project? No
- b. Are there similar limiting physical conditions in the planning area that might make development unsuitable? No
- c. Are there any unusual or unique geological features that might be affected? No
- d. Are there any hazardous areas (slides, faults) that might affect construction or development? No

Discussion and References:

2. Climate

- a. Are there any unusual or special meteorological constraints in the planning area that might result in an air quality problem? No
- b. Are there any unusual or special meteorological constraints in the planning area that affect the feasibility of the proposed project? No

Discussion and References:

3. Population

- a. Are the proposed growth rates unreasonable? No
- b. Will new housing serviced by this facility affect existing facilities, transportation patterns, environmentally sensitive areas, or be in special hazard or danger zones? NA
- c. Will new housing create strains on other utilities and service (police, power, water supply, hospital care, schools, etc.)? NA

Discussion and References:

4. Economics and Social Profile

- a. Does documentation exist which suggests that the local populace cannot afford the proposed project? No
- b. Will the facilities adversely affect land values? No
- c. Are any poor or disadvantaged groups especially affected by this project? No

Discussion and References:

5. Land Use

- a. Will projected growth defeat the purpose of any known local land use controls? No
- b. Is the location of the facilities incompatible with any known local land use plans? No
- c. Will inhabited areas be adversely impacted by the project site? No
- d. Will new development have adverse effects on older existing land uses (agriculture, forest land, etc.)? NA
- e. Will this project contribute to changes in land use in association with recreation (skiing, parks, etc.), mining or other large industrial or energy developments? No

Discussion and References:

6. Floodplain Development

- a. Does the project area contain 100-year floodplains? No
If yes to a., then:
- b. Will the project be constructed in a 100-year floodplain? -
- c. Will the project serve direct or indirect development in a 100-year floodplain anywhere in the planning area? -

Discussion and References:

7. Wetlands

- a. Does the planning area contain wetlands or riparian areas? No
If yes to a., then:
- b. Will any major part of the project be located on or affect wetlands or riparian areas? No
- c. Will the project serve growth and development which will directly or indirectly affect wetlands or riparian areas? No

Discussion and References:

8. Wild & Scenic Rivers

a. Does the planning area contain a designated or proposed wild and scenic river?

No

If yes to a., then:

b. Will the project be constructed near the river?

-

c. Will projected growth and development take place contiguous to or upstream from the river segment?

-

Discussion and References:

9. Cultural Resources (Archaeological/Historical)

a. Was the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) contacted (usually by applicant utilizing the Uniform Application process) concerning historic, architectural, archaeological issues in the planning area?

Yes

If yes to a., then:

b. Was SHPO's response included with the application?

Yes

c. Was SHPO's response such that the project may not continue without further action or investigation by the applicant?

No

Discussion and References:

10. Flora and Fauna (including endangered species)

- a. Are any designated, threatened or endangered species (or their habitat) known to exist in, or use, the planning area? No
- b. Will the project have any known direct or indirect adverse impacts on known designated species? No
- c. Will the project have any known direct or indirect adverse impacts on fish, wildlife or their habitat including migratory routes, wintering or calving areas? No
- d. Does the planning area include a sensitive habitat area designated by a local, state, or federal wildlife agency? No

Discussion and References:

11. Recreation and Open Space

- a. Will the project eliminate or modify recreational open space, parks or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value? No
- b. Is it feasible to combine the project with parks, bicycle paths, hiking trails, waterway access and other recreational uses? No

Discussion and References:

12. Agricultural Lands

- a. Does the planning area contain any known environmentally significant agricultural lands (prime, unique, statewide importance, local importance, etc.)? No
- If yes to a., then:
- b. Will the project directly or indirectly encourage the irreversible conversion of environmentally significant agricultural lands to uses which result in the loss of these lands as an environmental or essential food production resource? —

Discussion and References:

13. Water Quality and Quantity (Surface/Groundwater)

- a. Will water rights be adversely affected by the project? NK
- b. Will the project cause a significant amount of water to be transferred from one sub-basin to another? No
- c. Will the project adversely affect the quantity or quality of a groundwater resource? PA
- d. Does the project adversely affect an aquifer used as a drinking water supply? PA
- e. Are there additional cost effective water conservation measures that could be adopted by the community to reduce water consumption? U

Discussion and References:

The Town of Plains will be increasing the capacity of City well #1 from ~300 gpm to 700 gpm. This increase has been requested & will be dealt with by the water rights division. Note: The annual water claimed (255 AF) will not change.

14. Public Health

- a. Will there be adverse direct or indirect noise impacts from the project? PA
- b. Is there evidence of any unique public health problems that may result from the proposed project (e.g. increased disease risk)? NK

Discussion and References:

The noise of heavy equipment will occur for ~3-6 weeks during construction. Noise from the emergency generator is not expected to have adverse direct or indirect impacts.

15. Waste Management (Including water treatment plant residuals, backwash water, sanitary wastes and solid wastes associated with the project)

- a. Will waste disposal occur in an area with inadequate sanitary landfills or on land unsuitable for land application? No
- b. Are there special problems with the waste that make disposal difficult (hazardous or difficult to treat)? No
- c. Is the technology selected for waste disposal controversial? No

Discussion and References:

16. Energy

- a. Are there additional cost-effective measures to reduce energy consumption or increase energy recovery which could be included in the project?

NK

Discussion and References:

17. Regionalization

- a. Are there jurisdictional disputes or controversy over the project?
- b. Have inter-jurisdictional agreements been signed?

NK
NA

Discussion and References:

18. Public Participation

- a. Is there a substantial level of public controversy?
- b. Is there inadequate evidence of public participation in the project?

NK
NK

Discussion and References:

DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW DETERMINATION

Project Name: Town of Plains, Well #1 Improvements

Project Number: _____

Reviewer: Robert Ashton

Date: Jan 18, 2006

The PER for the above-referenced project has been reviewed. Based on this review, it has been determined that the appropriate environmental review for the project is a:

- Categorical Exclusion (Cat Ex)
- Environmental Assessment (EA) & Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

R. Ashton
1/18/06

✓

Provide a copy of the EA (or draft EA - if a draft is issued for public comment) and the Finding to the Legislative Environmental Policy Office.

UNIFORM ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED
MUNICIPAL WELL IMPROVEMENTS
Town of Plains
Sanders County, MT

RECEIVED

AUG - 3 2005

**DEQ
PPA-TFA**

INTRODUCTION:

The Town of Plains has lost their principal source of water for the municipal supply. In 2002 the Boyer Spring supply (300 gpm) was disconnected from the system and can no longer be used for a public water supply under regulations of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The remaining Town wells produce 300 gpm (City Well No. 1) and 390 gpm (Balch Well). Therefore the Town found it necessary to increase their groundwater well supplies and commissioned PCI and Western Groundwater Services (WGS) to review the known information on both City Wells (No.1 and the Balch Well). The conclusions presented in the "*Town of Plains Well Testing Plan*", April 2004, were that either well could likely be increased significantly in volume and MDEQ approved the well testing plan under EQ #04-2563.

The Town concluded to actually pump test Well No. 1 to better determine a design pumping rate and the results were presented in the WGS Report "*Town of Plains City Well Pumping Test*", June, 2004. The pumping design flow for Well No. 1 is 700 gpm and MDEQ concurred in the design rate on August 5, 2004.

WATER USE - CURRENT AND PROJECTED:

The following Table summarizes the current and projected municipal water demand for the Town of Plains. The "current use" is derived from the records of production for both wells during the year 2004, and the projected use is based on an annual growth rate of 2% as developed in the "*Town of Plains Wastewater Facilities Plan*", December, 2000.

Year:	2,004	2,024
Population (July 1, 2004 census / projection @ 2% annual)	1,237	1,838
Total Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU's)	650	965
Average daily Water production (measured @ 425 gpd/edu)	277,200	474,000
Maximum day production (gal, measured July 30, 2004)	691,000	1,181,580
Peak Day Water Demand (gpm)	480	820
Annual Water Volume (Acre Feet)	311	531

After successful completion of the proposed Project, the projected average day's water use of 474,000 gallons will easily be met with the largest well out of service (DEQ 1, Section 3.2.1.1) as the Balch Well is capable of producing 561,600 gallons per day (390 gpm x 24 hours). The projected maximum day's use of 1,181,580 gallons will be easily met with the addition of City Well No.1 at 1,008,000 gallons (700 gpm x 24 hours).

ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLIES:

Alternatives to increasing the supply from City Well No. 1 briefly considered are:

1. Take No Action: This will place the Town in jeopardy of running out of water during peak summer months. Under present conditions, the Town cannot meet the maximum day demands if one of the wells is out of service.
2. Re-claim the Boyer Spring. As the Spring is classified as a surface water source by MDEQ. In addition, the Spring has been known to dry up in summer months when it is needed most. The investment in a filtration and treatment plant for the Spring is not considered feasible.
3. Other surface water sources: The Clark Fork River is an obvious source of plentiful water, however, the investment in a filtration and treatment plant for the Spring is not considered feasible.
4. Increase the Balch Well: The "*Well Testing Plan*", WGS, April, 2004, suggests that it is reasonable to double the production from the Balch well. This well was purchased by the Town in 1994 and new pump, electrical and pumphouse installed at that time. Pump testing the Balch well would have involved considerable expense to transport the discharge water to waste. City Well No. 1 was relatively easy to pump to waste for the test pumping. An increase in the Balch Well production is a good possibility for future supply.

CONCLUSION:

The City Well No. 1, pump and motor have been in place since 1965. Replacement of this pump and motor with one capable of doubling the production is a sound economical approach to the needed additional water supply. A new and larger supply line from the well house to the City water system grid will also be needed to reduce friction losses. A telemetry control system will be installed to control the pump from the water tank level and a variable speed drive will maximize pump efficiency. A diesel powered portable generator will provide emergency back-up power for the pump.

The following checklist identifies the environmental resources in the project area and discusses the potential impacts that the project could have on those resources.

47°29.000' N

47°28.000' N

47°27.000' N

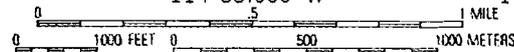
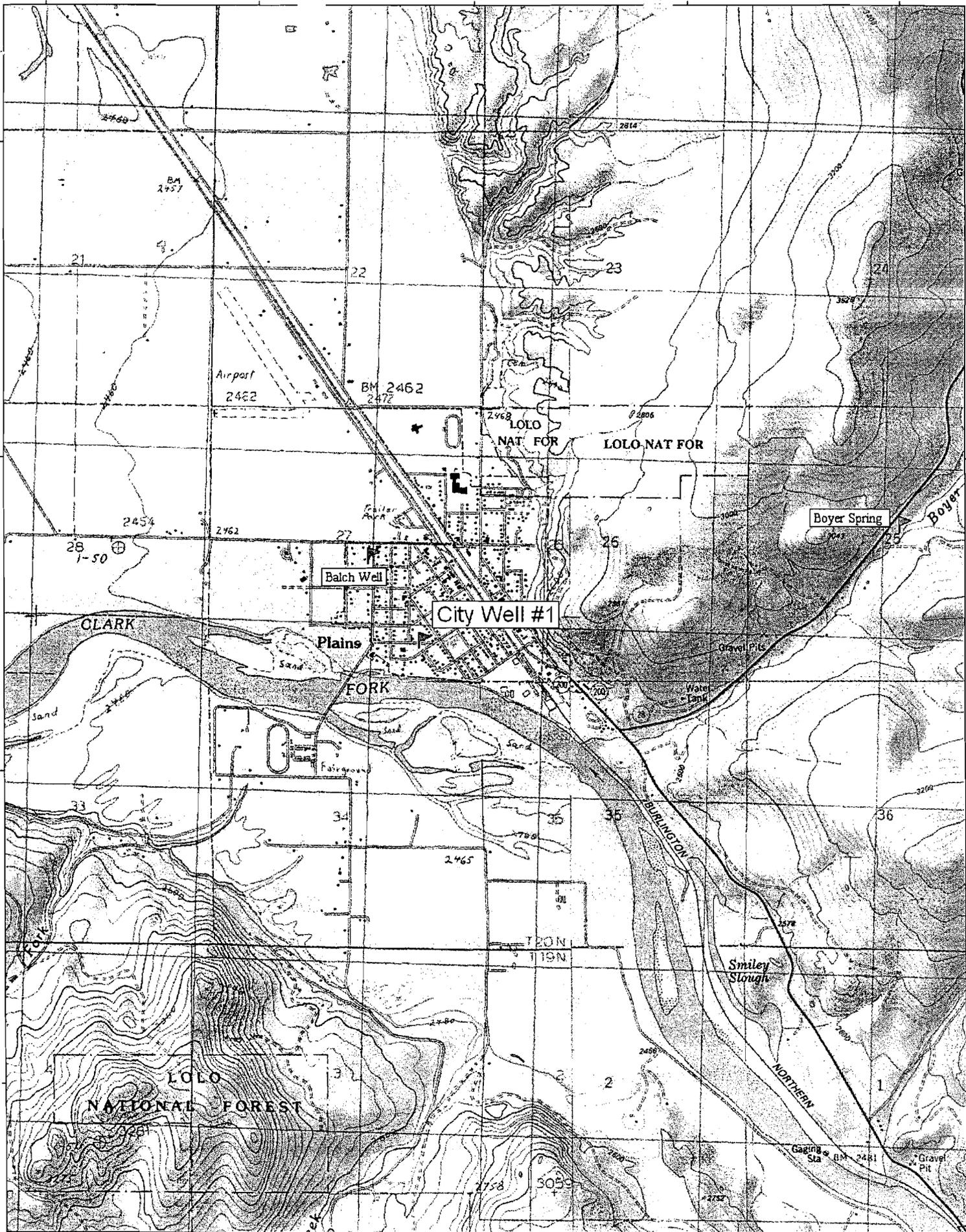
47°26.000' N

47°29.000' N

47°28.000' N

47°27.000' N

47°26.000' N





Town of Plains City Well No.1 Upgrade



City Well #1

1. Replace Pump
2. Install New 8" Waterline

Funding provided by:

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Helena, Montana



Scale: 1"=100'

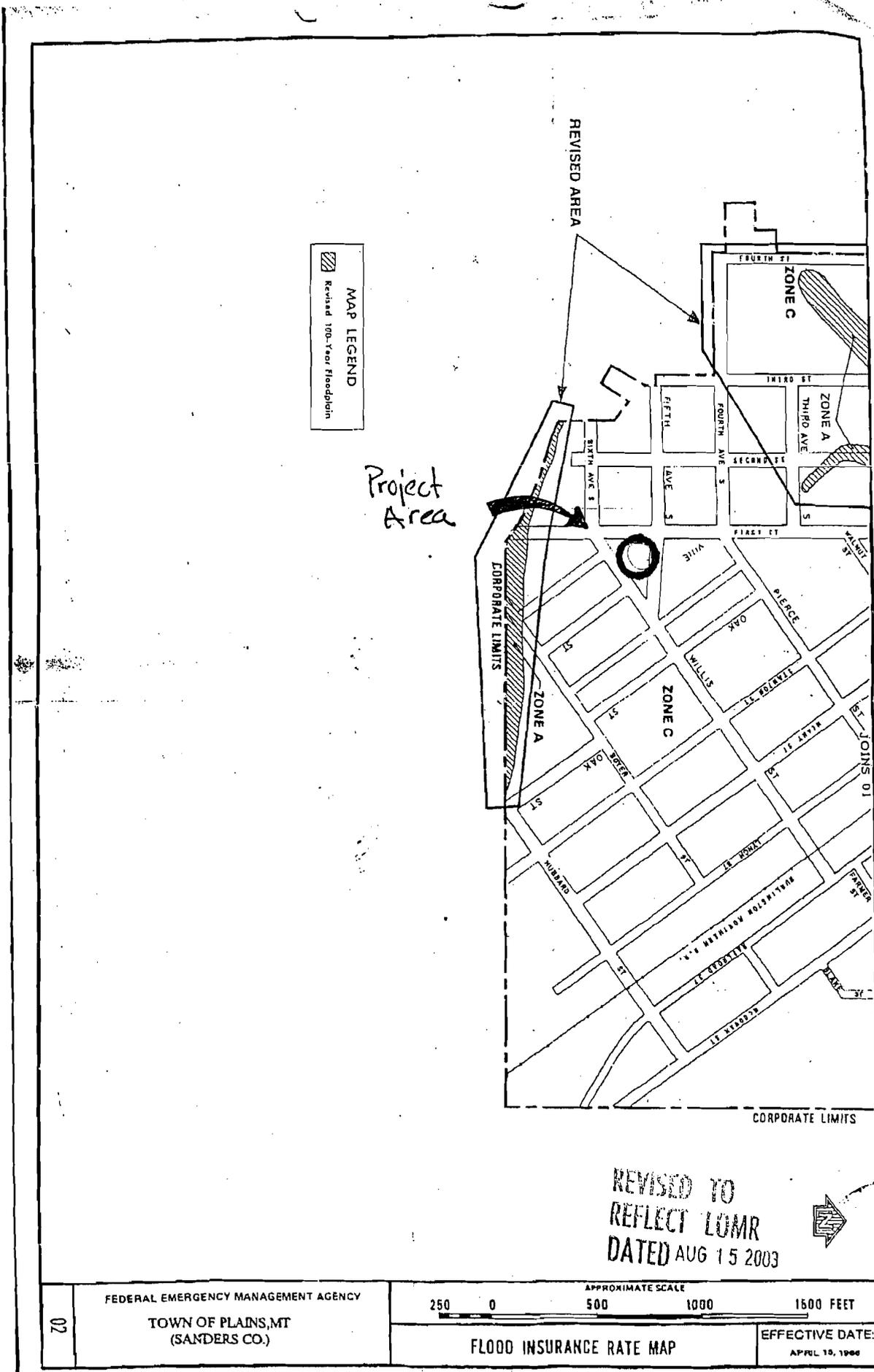


Professional Consultants Inc.
Engineers. Surveyors. Planners. Mappers.

3115 RUSSELL ST. PO BOX 1750
MISSOULA, MONTANA

PHONE 406-728-1880
FAX 406-728-0276

Town Of Plains
PCI Project #7122-04
2 August 2005



MAP LEGEND
 Revised 100-Year Floodplain

Project Area

REVISED TO
 REFLECT LOMR
 DATED AUG 15 2003

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
 TOWN OF PLAINS, MT
 (SANDERS CO.)

APPROXIMATE SCALE
 250 0 500 1000 1500 FEET

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

EFFECTIVE DATE:
 APRIL 10, 1990

02

UNIFORM ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

As the engineer that prepared the preliminary engineering report, I Thomas M. Hanson, P.E., L.S., have reviewed the information presented below and believe that it accurately identifies the environmental resources in the area and the potential impacts that the project could have on those resources.

Key Letter: N – No Impact/Not Applicable B – Potentially Beneficial A – Potentially Adverse
 P – Approval/Permits Required M – Mitigation Required

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;">Key</div> <div style="padding-bottom: 2px;">N</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;"></div>	<p>1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (e.g., soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> "Source Water Delineation and Assessment Report" August 13, 2002, MDEQ</p>
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;">Key</div> <div style="padding-bottom: 2px;">A</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;"></div>	<p>2. Hazardous Facilities (e.g., power lines, hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities & propane storage tanks)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> "Source Water Delineation and Assessment Report" August 13, 2002, MDEQ. City Wells have a high to very high susceptibility to contaminants originating from Highways or Railroad via the Clark Fork River.</p>
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;">Key</div> <div style="padding-bottom: 2px;">N</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;"></div>	<p>3. Effects of Project on Surrounding Air Quality or Any Kind of Effects of Existing Air Quality on Project (e.g., dust, odors, emissions)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. A diesel powered emergency back up generator will be included in the Project to be used at times of power outage. The generator will be operated once every 2 weeks for maintenance purposes. There are no significant effects on air quality expected.</p>
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;">Key</div> <div style="padding-bottom: 2px;">A</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;"></div>	<p>4. Groundwater Resources & Aquifers (e.g., quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will increase the pumping rate of the City Well No. 1 from approximately 300 gpm to 700 gpm. The increased pumping rate is to satisfy peak demands. The annual water claimed (255 AF) does not change. "Town of Plains City Well Pumping Test" Western Groundwater Services, LLC, June, 2004.</p>
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;">Key</div> <div style="padding-bottom: 2px;">N</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;"></div>	<p>5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity & Distribution (e.g., streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. There are no effects on surface water or storm water quality.</p>
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 2px;">Key</div>	<p>6.</p>

Key Letter: N – No Impact/Not Applicable **B** – Potentially Beneficial **A** – Potentially Adverse
P – Approval/Permits Required **M** – Mitigation Required

<u>N</u>	<p>Floodplains & Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. The Site is approximately 200' from the 100 year flood plain of the Clark Fork River.</p>
<u>Key</u> <u>N</u>	<p>7. Wetlands Protection (Identify any wetlands within one mile of the boundary of the project.)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The USFS database has not yet inventoried wetlands in the Plains area. This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. There are no wetland areas involved.</p>
<u>Key</u> <u>N</u>	<p>8. Agricultural Lands, Production, & Farmland Protection (e.g., grazing, forestry, cropland, prime or unique agricultural lands) (Identify any prime or important farm ground or forest lands within one mile of the boundary of the project.)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. There are no ag lands involved.</p>
<u>Key</u> <u>N</u>	<p>9. Vegetation & Wildlife Species & Habitats, Including Fish (e.g., terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. There are no significant vegetated areas, nor surface water involved.</p>
<u>Key</u> <u>N</u>	<p>10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (e.g., plants, fish or wildlife)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. There are no habitats for unique or endangered species involved.</p>
<u>Key</u> <u>N</u>	<p>11. Unique Natural Features (e.g., geologic features)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. There are no unique natural features involved.</p>
<u>Key</u> <u>N</u>	<p>12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational & Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways, and Public Open Space</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. There are areas of access to recreational nor wilderness areas involved. The City Park is a grassed open space which will be restored to existing at completion of the Project.</p>

Key Letter: N – No Impact/Not Applicable B – Potentially Beneficial A – Potentially Adverse
P – Approval/Permits Required M – Mitigation Required

HUMAN POPULATION		
<u>Key</u> N	1.	<p>Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. Once the site is restored, there will be no visual difference from present conditions.</p>
<u>Key</u> A	2.	<p>Nuisances (e.g., glare, fumes)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will include a trailer mounted diesel generator for use at this Well and other City facilities for emergency power. The generator will normally be housed at the City Shop and exercised biweekly for maintenance. The generator motor will meet current emission standards.</p>
<u>Key</u> A	3.	<p>Noise -- suitable separation between noise sensitive activities (such as residential areas) and major noise sources (aircraft, highways & railroads)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will include a trailer mounted diesel generator for use at this Well and other City facilities for emergency power. The generator will normally be housed at the City Shop and exercised biweekly for maintenance. The generator motor will be muffled and meet current noise standards.</p>
<u>Key</u> N	4.	<p>Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. There are no known historic, cultural, nor archaeological resources. The Site has been previously excavated for the present water line.</p>
<u>Key</u> N	5.	<p>Changes in Demographic (population) Characteristics (e.g., quantity, distribution, density)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Town of Plains has grown 9.9% from 2000 to 2004, or a bit more than 2% annual. The subject Project is needed to keep the water supply current with the population growth and meet water use demands. "Annual Estimates of the Population of Incorporated Places in Montana", http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us/EstimatesPlacePop.htm .</p>
<u>Key</u> B	6.	<p>General Housing Conditions - Quality, Quantity, Affordability</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> An adequate water supply is necessary for safe and quality housing. The Project will keep the water supply current with State and national standards.</p>
<u>Key</u>	7.	<p>Displacement or Relocation of Businesses or Residents</p>

Key Letter: N – No Impact/Not Applicable **B** – Potentially Beneficial **A** – Potentially Adverse
P – Approval/Permits Required **M** – Mitigation Required

	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will replace a well pump in an existing well and replace 200' of water main piping in the City Park and street. The is no relocation nor displacement required.
	Key	8.	Public Health and Safety
	B		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> An adequate water supply is necessary for public health and safety, including fire protection. The Project will keep the water supply quantity and rate current with State and national standards.
	Key	9.	Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos
	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> There are no lead based paints involved. The water main to be replaced is thought to be 6" asbestos concrete (AC) pipe. The greatest length will be abandoned in place. A small section (10') will be cut out and removed for tie-in of the new 8" ductile iron pipe. Removal and disposal of the AC will be per State and EPA regulation.
	Key	10.	Local Employment & Income Patterns - Quantity and Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact
	B		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project may provide temporary employment for local residents and construction workers will support local businesses during the construction period with demands for food, lodging and supplies, however, the construction value of the Project at \$200,000 is not great.
	Key	11.	Local & State Tax Base & Revenues
	B		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Provision of an adequate supply of water will assure the continued growth of Plains, resulting in a healthy local and State tax base and revenues.
	Key	12.	Educational Facilities - Schools, Colleges, Universities
	B		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Provision of an adequate supply of water will assure the prudent growth of the School system to serve the Town and surrounding community. The Plains School District; K-12 are connected to the Town water supply.
	Key	13.	Commercial and Industrial Facilities - Production & Activity, Growth or Decline
	B		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> An adequate water supply is essential to growth and development of commercial and industrial facilities. The Town will be in better position to attract small and light industrial /commercial facilities.
	Key	14.	Health Care – Medical Services

Key Letter: N – No Impact/Not Applicable **B** – Potentially Beneficial **A** – Potentially Adverse
P – Approval/Permits Required **M** – Mitigation Required

	B			
				<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Provision of an adequate supply of water is essential to the viability of the area medical facilities. The Clark Fork Valley Hospital is connected to the Plains water system and serves all of Sanders County.
	Key	15.	Social Services – Governmental Services (e.g., demand on)	
	N			
				<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Project will include a more efficient pumping system, although one with greatly increased capacity. The emergency generator will be new equipment with some additional maintenance, but telemetry control of the water delivery system will reduce staff monitoring time. The net effect is not expected to increase staffing requirements.
	Key	16.	Social Structures & Mores (Standards of Social Conduct/Social Conventions)	
	N			
				<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Project will have no impact on social structures and mores.
	Key	17.	Land Use Compatibility (e.g., growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)	
	B			
				<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Project will allow the Town of Plains to continue to meet the growth needs projected for the next 20 years. The source of growth is not in the water system itself, but a viable water supply is necessary to meet current and projected demands on the system.
	Key	18.	Energy Resources - Consumption and Conservation	
	B			
				<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Project will include a more efficient pumping system, although one with greatly increased capacity. The additional power requirements are expected to be off-set by variable speed drive and efficient motors. Telemetry control of delivery of the water will reduce waste and allow filling of the water tank at off-peak hours. The net effect will be a conservation of resources.
	Key	19.	Solid Waste Management	
	N			
				<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> There are no impacts on solid waste collection or disposal. A small amount of asbestos-cement pipe will be removed during construction and disposed of in an authorized landfill.
	Key	20.	Wastewater Treatment - Sewage System	

Key Letter: N – No Impact/Not Applicable **B** – Potentially Beneficial **A** – Potentially Adverse
P – Approval/Permits Required **M** – Mitigation Required

	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> There are no direct impacts of this Project on the wastewater treatment plant. The Wastewater treatment plant was upgraded in 2004 to meet growth demands to 2015.
	Key	21.	Storm Water – Surface Drainage
	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Town does not have a stormwater collection or treatment system. There will be no impact on surface drainage from this Project when completed.
	Key	22.	Community Water Supply
	B		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Project will provide additional water for domestic supply and fire protection to meet 20 year projects of community growth. In addition, it will provide emergency back-up power and more efficient pumping and control.
	Key	23.	Public Safety – Police
	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> There are no impacts from the Project on public safety – police. There are positive benefits to fire protection – see below.
	Key	24.	Fire Protection – Hazards
	B		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Project will increase water supply approximately 400 gpm, which will increase flows available for fire protection.
	Key	25.	Emergency Medical Services
	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> There are no impacts expected to emergency medical services.
	Key	26.	Parks, Playgrounds, & Open Space
	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will have a short term effect on the City Park. The Park is a vacant grassed field with no improvements and excavation will be required for the installation of the new water main. The surface will be planted back to lawn grass and restored to the present condition within a few months time.
	Key	27.	Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness & Diversity

Key Letter: N – No Impact/Not Applicable **B** – Potentially Beneficial **A** – Potentially Adverse
P – Approval/Permits Required **M** – Mitigation Required

	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will have no impact on cultural facilities, uniqueness, nor diversity.
	Key	28.	Transportation Networks and Traffic Flow Conflicts (e.g., rail; auto including local traffic; airport runway clear zones - avoidance of incompatible land use in airport runway clear zones)
	A		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This Project will have a minimal impact on traffic in Willis Street during the period of tie-in to the water system grid. Maximum time should be 1 week and the street should remain open to 1-way traffic. There are diversions around this section also.
	Key	29.	Consistency with Local Ordinances, Resolutions, or Plans (e.g., conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning, or capital improvement plans)
	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Town has worked towards this Project since the Boyer Springs were discontinued in 2002. They have increased their water user rates to cover the anticipated debt service and included the Project in the annual budget.
	Key	30.	Is There a Regulatory Action on Private Property Rights as a Result of this Project? (consider options that reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.)
	N		
			<i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Project has no impacts on private property rights. The activities are all within public lands.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
100 N. PARK, SUITE 320
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
PHONE (406) 449-5225, FAX (406) 449-5339

Received

AUG 19 2005

*Professional
Consultants, Inc.*

File: M29 (I)

August 17, 2005

Thomas M. Hanson
Professional Consultants, Inc.
3115 Russell Street
P.O. Box 1750
Missoula, Montana 59806

Dear Mr. Hanson:

This is in response to your request dated August 2, 2005 for information and comments regarding the proposed water system improvements for the town of Plains. We appreciate the opportunity to review this project proposal and provide comments. These comments have been prepared under the authority of and in accordance with the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et. seq.) and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.).

Considering the nature, scope and location of the project, the Service does not anticipate adverse impacts to any federally listed threatened, endangered, candidate or proposed species. There may be state species of concern in the vicinity of the project and we recommend contacting the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 1420 East Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701, 406-444-2535 or the Montana Natural Heritage Program, 1515 East 6th Avenue, Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800, 406-444-5354.

If wetlands are impacted by this project, Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits may be required. The Service suggests any proposed or future project be designed to avoid and minimize impacts to wetland areas, stream channels and surrounding vegetation to the greatest extent possible. Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, along with future activities required to maintain these improvements, should be analyzed.

The Service appreciates your efforts to incorporate fish and wildlife resource concerns, including threatened and endangered species, into your project planning. If you have questions or comments related to this issue, please contact Katrina Dixon at 406-449-5225 extension 222.

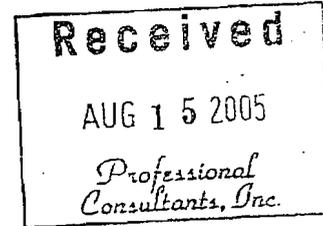
Sincerely,

R. Mark Wilson
Field Supervisor



Missoula District Office
2100 W Broadway
PO Box 7039
Missoula, MT 59807-7039

August 12, 2005



Thomas M. Hanson, PE, LS
Professional Consultants, Inc.
P.O. Box 1750
Missoula, MT 59806

Subject: Plains Water System Up Grade

Tom, the Montana Department of Transportation received your letter requesting comments for the proposed water system improvements for the Town of Plains.

After reviewing the environmental check list, the Department has no comments at this time.

If you need further assistance, feel free to contact me at anytime.

Douglas D. Moeller
Missoula Maintenance Chief
(406) 523-5803

copies: Area File

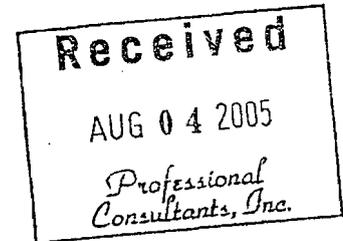


MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ www.montanahistoricalociety.org ♦

August 3, 2005

Thomas M. Hanson
Professional Consultants Inc.
3115 Russell Street
PO Box 1750
Missoula MT 59806



RE: PROPOSED WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, TOWN OF PLAINS.
SHPO Project #: 2005080302

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 27, T20N R26W. According to our records there have been no previously recorded historic or archaeological sites within the designated search locales. The absence of cultural properties in the area does not mean that they do not exist but rather may reflect the absence of any previous cultural resource inventory in the area, as our records indicated none.

We feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated. Thank you for consulting with us.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at dmurdo@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager

File: DEQ/AIR&WATER WASTE MNG/2005