



July 30, 2009

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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 Location	Town of Dutton Wastewater Improvements Dutton, Montana
Project Number	SRF Wastewater C301224 DOC-TSEP Project # MT-TSEP-CG-10-482
Total Cost	\$1,816,000

The Town of Dutton's Preliminary Engineering Report for Wastewater System Improvements prepared by Great West Engineering has identified the need to improve their main lift station and wastewater treatment facility. The lift station, constructed in 1972, is corroded, unreliable and has outlived its useful life. It will be replaced with a new lift station and back-up generator. The wastewater treatment facility, a two-cell facultative lagoon with a controlled discharge to Hunt Coulee, was constructed in 1972. The lagoon system has inadequate detention time resulting in unsafe operating practices and inadequate treatment with lower removal percentages and higher pathogen presence in the discharge. Discharge of inadequately treated wastewater results in elevated public health and safety risks. The facility is generally deteriorating and may be leaking. The treatment facility will be upgraded to service current and future users of Dutton. The existing primary treatment lagoon will be rehabilitated to meet current standards and a new storage lagoon will be constructed just north of the existing lagoon. Treated wastewater will be land applied through spray irrigation on land located approximately 1000 feet north of the lagoons. The upgraded system will provide long-term compliance with the Department of Environmental Quality's requirements, eliminate identified public health hazards, improve treatment efficiency, and reduce adverse environmental impacts associated with groundwater pollution and surface water impairment.

Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, and historical sites will not be adversely impacted as a result of the proposed project. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified. An environmental assessment (EA), which describes the project and analyzes the impacts in more detail, is available for public scrutiny on the Department of Environmental Quality website: www.deq.mt.gov or at the following locations:



Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-09011
tslovarp@mt.gov

Town of Dutton
11 Main Street W
PO Box 156
Dutton, Montana 59433

Comments on the EA may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality at the above address. After evaluating substantive comments received, the department will revise the environmental assessment or determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary. If no substantive comments are received during the comment period, or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant, the agency will make a final decision. 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,

Todd Teegarden, Bureau Chief
Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau

TOWN OF DUTTON WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. COVER SHEET

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: Town of Dutton
Address: PO Box 156
Dutton, MT 59433
Project Number: C301224-01
DOC-TSEP Project # MT-TSEP-CG-10-482

B. CONTACT PERSON

Name: Susan Fleshman, Mayor
Address: PO Box 156
Dutton, MT 59433
Telephone: (406) 476-3311

C. ABSTRACT

The Town of Dutton, through its 2006 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), has identified the need to upgrade its wastewater treatment facility and lift station. The main lift station which pumps the wastewater to the treatment lagoons was constructed in 1972 and other than a new motor installed in 1999; all components at the lift station are original and are nearing the end of their useful life. The wet well piping is showing signs of severe corrosion. A back-up generator requires constant monitoring to keep it running. The lift station performance has suffered due to periodic malfunctions of the electrical and control systems. The PER recommends constructing a new lift station and providing a new standby generator to serve the current and future users of Dutton. The treatment lagoon system was constructed in 1972. If operated with three feet of freeboard, the treatment system only has capacity to provide 136 days of detention time compared to the 180 days detention time required by DEQ standards. Insufficient detention time results in inadequate treatment and a higher pathogen presence in the discharge possibly causing elevated public health and safety risks. The lagoons are typically operated with only 1-2 feet of freeboard in order to meet permit limitations. This in combination with the poor condition of the embankments increases the likelihood of dike failure which would be a catastrophic threat to the public health and safety. The lagoons may be leaking, evidenced by seepage water at the toe of the dikes. To alleviate the deficiencies in the treatment system an upgrade of a rehabilitated primary cell and a new storage cell and a spray irrigation effluent disposal system is

proposed.

Federal and State grant/loan programs will fund the project. The improvements are estimated to cost approximately \$1,816,000. The Town of Dutton will receive \$750,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds. The amount of forgiven principal is \$390,700 and \$359,300 will be a loan at 0.75%. A loan at 3.75% for 20 years for \$466,000 will be obtained from the State Revolving Fund loan program. The Town has received two State grants; one for \$500,000 from the Montana Department of Commerce Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) and \$100,000 from the Department of Natural Resources Renewable Resources Grant & Loan Program.

Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, and historical sites are not expected to be adversely impacted as a result of the proposed project. Additional environmental impacts related to land use, water quality, air quality, public health, energy, noise, growth, and sludge disposal were also assessed. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified.

Under Montana law, (75-6-112, MCA), no person may construct, extend, or use a public sewage system until the DEQ has reviewed and approved the plans and specifications for the project. Under the Montana Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Act, the DEQ may loan money to municipalities for construction of public sewage systems.

The DEQ, Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau, has prepared this Environmental Assessment to satisfy the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Montana Department of Commerce, Treasure State Endowment Program, has also reviewed this EA for purposes of MEPA compliance.

D. COMMENT PERIOD

Thirty (30) calendar days

II. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The Town of Dutton is currently served by a central collection and treatment system. The Town has an aggressive and proactive cleaning and maintenance program for the collection system. No improvements to the collection lines are planned.

The collection system discharges to the main lift station located east of Town. The current lift station was constructed in 1972. The lift station utilizes a wet well/dry well configuration. A new motor was installed on pump 1 in 1999. All other components at the lift station are original. Problems associated with the lift station have been primarily electrical, but after 37 years of operation, other components are nearing the end of their useful life. The wet well and piping are showing signs of corrosion. The lift station has a back-up generator but it requires constant monitoring to keep it running.

The Dutton wastewater treatment facility was installed east of Town in 1972 and consists of a two-cell facultative lagoon system with controlled discharge to Hunt Coulee. Improvements to the lagoon facility in 2002 included the addition of rip-rap to prevent erosion on the interior slopes and the installation of two wind-mill type aeration bubblers in the east lagoon as a means of adding oxygen to the treatment lagoon to reduce sludge build-up and to control odors.

The existing two-cell lagoon system only has capacity to provide 136 days of detention time at current flows and sludge depths. This does not meet DEQ requirements for a facility with surface discharge (three treatment cells and 180 days detention time). Insufficient detention times result in inadequate treatment with lower removal percentages and a higher pathogen presence in the discharge. Discharge of inadequately treated wastewater results in elevated public health and safety risks due to the potential for human contact through either direct exposure or through vectoring (incidental contact through contact with pets, livestock, etc.). Since Hunt Coulee is classified as "B-2" the DEQ has indicated that the next discharge permit will likely have an ammonia limit to protect aquatic life. Since there is no dilution available in Hunt Coulee, ammonia limits must be met at the end of pipe. The existing lagoon is simply unable to treat ammonia to this level which will lead to additional water quality violations.

The inlet control structure which houses the force main piping and control valves for the treatment cell is flooded. These valves are not accessible and appear to be severely corroded. The inability to access or operate these valves severely limits the operability of the facility. The western embankment in both cells shows significant signs of erosion and sloughing. The dikes also contain numerous rodent burrows. Cattails and bulrush are growing along the edge of the water at various locations within the cells.

The sludge has not been removed from the lagoons since they were built. The lagoons have approximately 2.7 feet of sludge in the western primary cell and 1.3 feet of sludge in the eastern secondary cell. Excess sludge accumulations also cause a negative affect on the treatment efficiency and treatment capacity of the system. Both cells were constructed with a clay liner to prevent leakage. A Montana DEQ inspection report cited evidence of seepage at the toe of the dike indicating the liners integrity may be compromised.

The ability of the community to accommodate growth and to allow for economic development is severely limited due to the limitations of the wastewater treatment and disposal system. Without improvements to the wastewater facilities substantial degradation of surface and groundwater resources and the environment will continue. As such, the PER recommends replacement of the existing lift station, new standby generator, rehabilitation of the primary treatment lagoon and construction of a new storage lagoon with spray irrigation. The existing secondary lagoon area will be reclaimed. These improvements will eliminate the illegal discharge to groundwater, eliminate a discharge to surface water, and correct the dike erosion.

III. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. The four treatment alternatives evaluated included:

1. No Action
2. Two-Cell Total Retention Facultative Lagoons
3. Two-Cell Facultative Lagoons with Spray Irrigation
4. Three-Cell Facultative Lagoons with Continuous Discharge

1. **NO ACTION** - The no action alternative would result in continued use of the Town's two-cell facultative lagoon system. Without improvements to the wastewater management facilities degradation of surface water resources (ammonia toxicity and fecal coliform bacteria) will continue and the Town will not be able to meet their MPDES discharge permit requirements. The system is currently operated above the designed operating depth which creates unsafe and hazardous operating conditions which could lead to catastrophic dike failure. If the system is operated at design depth the reduced detention time will result in marginally treated wastewater being discharged to Hunt Coulee and a likely increase in permit violations. Hunt Coulee meanders through ranch and farm lands and given the close proximity of town (1/2 mile) the uncontrolled access to Hunt coulee near the discharge point, is a significant public health and safety risk. Over time, the nutrients and fecal coliform bacteria in the discharge will contaminate and degrade the water quality in shallow wells and surface water located nearby. Without action the Montana DEQ and EPA will eventually take enforcement action against the Town to remedy the inadequate treatment of wastewater. This alternative is not considered a viable alternative.

2. **TWO-CELL TOTAL RETENTION LAGOONS** – This alternative would involve construction of a two-cell total retention lagoon system. The lagoon cells would be sized large enough to allow for complete disposal of the water by evaporation. Two-cell systems are desired in order to provide a primary cell. The existing 2.5 acre primary treatment cell would be rehabilitated through sludge removal/disposal, embankment repair, installation of a synthetic liner, and new control structures and piping. A new 24 acre total retention pond would be constructed on adjacent property north of the existing lagoons. The retention pond would have a synthetic liner to prevent excessive leakage.

3. **TWO-CELL FACULTATIVE LAGOONS WITH SPRAY IRRIGATION** – This alternative would involve construction of a two-cell facultative lagoon system with spray irrigation. The existing 2.5 acre primary cell would be rehabilitated as discussed in Alternative 2. A new 5.2 acre secondary cell would be built on adjacent property north of the existing lagoons to provide storage of wastewater during the non-growing season. Approximately 18 acres of irrigated land would be required to grow grass for hay. Because disinfection is not provided, a two hundred foot buffer zone would be provided around the spray irrigation site. Based on cost comparison, environmental and social impacts, and public input, this alternative was selected to provide wastewater treatment and disposal for the Town of

Dutton.

4. **THREE-CELL FACULTATIVE LAGOONS WITH CONTINUOUS DISCHARGE** – This alternative consists of rehabilitating the existing lagoon system and adding a new treatment cell to increase treatment capacity. Rehabilitation of the existing primary cell would occur as discussed in Alternative 2. Rehabilitation of Cell 2 would include sludge removal, raising the embankments 2 feet, repairing erosion damage, the installation of synthetic liner, and new control structures and piping. A new 2.1 acre treatment cell would be constructed on adjacent property north of the lagoons. The new secondary treatment cell would have a synthetic liner and an operating depth of 8 feet. A new disinfection system would be constructed to meet permit limits. There would be some piping modifications.

B. COST COMPARISON PRESENT WORTH ANALYSIS

The present worth analysis is a means of comparing alternatives in present day dollars and can be used to determine the most cost-effective alternative. An interest rate of 6.0% over the 20-year planning period was used in the analysis. Table 1 provides a summary of the present worth analysis of alternatives considered.

Table 1
ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVES

ITEM	ALT 1	ALT 2	ALT 3	ALT 4
	No Action	Two-Cell Total Retention Lagoons	Two-Cell Facultative Lagoons with Spray Irrigation	Three-Cell Facultative Lagoons with Continuous Discharge
Capital Costs	N/A	\$2,214,000	\$1,782,000	\$1,593,000
Annual O&M Cost	N/A	\$12,750	\$21,270	\$18,170
20 Yr. Salvage Value	N/A	\$713,900	\$501,000	\$398,000
Present Worth of Salvage Value(6%)	N/A	\$222,600	\$156,200	\$124,100
Present Worth of Annual O&M Costs (6%)	N/A	\$146,200	\$244,000	\$208,400
Present Worth Cost	N/A	\$2,137,600	\$1,869,800	\$1,677,300

As shown in Table 1 alternative 4 has the lowest present worth cost. A number of

factors will be considered in the selection of the preferred alternative.

C. BASIS OF SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Selection of the preferred alternative was based upon several criteria, both monetary and non-monetary. The ranking criteria and weighting factors in terms of relative importance are shown in Table 2. As shown in the ranking criteria matrix, alternatives 2 and 3 scored the highest. Alternative 4 ranked slightly higher in the present worth comparison, while alternative 3 ranked higher for treatment performance, aesthetics, social and public acceptance, and environmental factors. Based on the overall score, alternative 3, a three-cell facultative lagoon with spray irrigation, was selected to provide wastewater treatment and disposal for the Town of Dutton.

The estimated administration, design and construction cost for the recommended alternative (Alternative 3) is \$1,816,000. The Town will receive American Recovery and Reinvestment 2009 funds through the Montana WPCSRF Program. This funding package consists of; loan forgiveness \$390,700 and a \$359,300 loan at 0.75%. They also will have a \$466,000 SRF loan at 3.75% for 20 years. The Town has received two State grants; one for \$500,000 from the Montana Department of Commerce Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) and \$100,000 from the Department of Natural Resources Renewable Resources Grant & Loan Program. The project will result in a user rate increase of approximately \$31.10 per month per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU). The operation and maintenance cost per EDU is estimated at \$9.96 for wastewater. Therefore, the projected user rate is \$41/month. With the cost of drinking water at approximately \$28.50 per month per EDU, the total combined water and sewer cost after completion of the proposed project is estimated to be \$69.56 per month per EDU. This combined rate is 107% over the target rate for Dutton, a community which is 51.4% Low-to-Moderate income.

Table 2
RANKING CRITERIA FOR TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVES

Criteria	Alt 2: Two-Cell Total Retention Lagoons	Alt 3: Two-Cell Facultative Lagoons with Spray Irrigation	Alt 4: Three-Cell Facultative Lagoons with Continuous Discharge
Cost Effectiveness	-	0	+
Operational Complexity	+	0	0
Regulatory Issues	+	0	-

Treatment Performance	+	+	0
Aesthetics/Social/Public Acceptance	-	+	+
Environmental	+	+	0
Weighted Total	2	3	1

The financial impact of this project on the system users is shown in Table 3. Based on the EPA guidance for project affordability, the proposed project will result in a monthly cost per household that is 1.45% of the monthly median household income and therefore is expected to impose a moderate economic hardship on household income.

Table 3
PROJECT AFFORDABILITY

Existing Monthly sewer rate	\$9.96
New monthly debt service and O&M increase	\$31.10
Total monthly user cost ¹	\$41.06
Monthly median household income (mMHI) ²	\$2,839
User rate as a percentage of mMHI	1.45%

¹ Town of Dutton estimated with Stimulus, SRF, TSEP & DNRC funding

² Based on 2000 census data

IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. PLANNING AREA

The incorporated Town of Dutton is located in Teton County; approximately 33 miles north of Great Falls along Interstate 15 (See Figure 1). The Town of Dutton is generally located at 47° 51' 00" N latitude and 111° 42' 03" W. The planning area is shown in Figure 2. The area includes the Dutton Town limits, the existing treatment lagoons located east of town and adjacent areas suitable for expansion of the Town as the community grows.

The wastewater treatment facility, located east of the town, provides wastewater service for the entire town. This project involves rehabilitating existing cell 1, constructing a new 5.2 acre storage lagoon and installation of spray irrigation equipment on adjacent property. During irrigation season, stored effluent will be spray irrigated on agricultural land. Once the wastewater system is operational the existing cell 2 would be emptied, allowed to dry out, the sludge removed, and the site reclaimed. The town is in the process of purchasing and leasing property just north of the existing lagoon site for construction of the proposed improvements (see Figure 3). The project will take approximately four months to construct following system design. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009.

B. FLOW PROJECTIONS

The current average flow to the wastewater treatment facility is estimated to be 34,000 gallons per day. This flow rate results in a net wastewater flow of 103 gallons per capita per day (gpcd). Monitoring showed that there is little inflow or infiltration in the existing system.

Teton County and the Town of Dutton have experienced slight increases and decreases in population since the 1950's. Town council members feel that the population may be stabilizing, and depending on the agricultural economy, may even increase somewhat in the future. Since any proposed wastewater system improvements would serve the community for a minimum of 20 years, it is important to be conservative in the design population estimate. Therefore for planning purposes it is estimated that Dutton's population will experience a 20% growth (1% annual growth) over the next 20 year planning period. Therefore, the 20-year design population is estimated to be 472 persons.

Table 4
PROJECTED POPULATION AND WASTEWATER FLOWS

Year	Population	Average Daily Flow	Peak Daily Flow	Peak Hourly Flow
		(gal/day)	(gal/day)	(gal/min)
2029	472	48,616	97,232	135

C. NATURAL FEATURES

The topography surrounding the Dutton area is a table-land or plateau, rising gently to the west, and is imperfectly drained. Total relief in the area is about 100 feet from 3650 to 3750 feet above mean sea level. Within the town, land is predominantly residential, while land immediately outside the boundaries is agricultural.

The soils in the vicinity of the existing lagoon and surrounding area are primarily silty clay loam, and clay loam. The primary surface water drainages within the planning area consist of Hunt Coulee to the south and east. Hunt Coulee is a tributary to the Teton River watershed which has been identified as impaired for aquatic life support and warm water fishery. Wetlands are present at various locations along the Hunt Coulee drainage that passes through Town and near the lagoon. The nearest wetland to the project site is located adjacent to the lagoon at the southwest corner. No construction is proposed in any area containing wetlands.

Groundwater in the area reportedly moves in an easterly-northeasterly direction. There are 11 wells recorded within a three mile radius of Dutton. These wells have an average depth of 40 feet and an average static water level of 15 feet. The maximum reported yield is 300gpm. Any proposed wastewater improvements will be planned to avoid encountering groundwater as much as

possible.

D. MAPS

The Town of Dutton is located in Teton County; approximately 33 miles north of Great Falls along Interstate 15 (See Figure 1). The town is in the process of purchasing and leasing property just north of the existing lagoon site for construction of the proposed improvements (see Figure 3). Figure 2 shows the planning area.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

A. DIRECT AND INDIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Land Use – The treatment site is located a fair distance from the community, and since the treatment lagoons have been located at this site for 35 years, conflicts with adjacent land should not occur. The project will have an impact on land use due to large land requirements for construction of the lagoons and irrigation site. The agricultural property, approximately 18 acres, proposed for use as an irrigation site will be enhanced due to the nutrient rich irrigation water provided. Construction of the storage lagoon will remove approximately 6 acres of agricultural land from production.
2. Floodplains and Wetlands – The primary surface water drainages within the planning area consist of Hunt Coulee which passes along the south and east embankments of the existing lagoon system. FEMA maps for the Dutton area show that the Town and the lagoons are not located within the 100-year floodplain. The lagoons are located in zone D which is designated as areas of undetermined but possible, flood hazards. The embankments of the proposed lagoons will be a minimum of 4 feet above the existing ground to prevent any potential flooding. No work is proposed in any area containing wetlands.
3. Cultural Resources – No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed the proposed project. According to their records, there have been no previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. SHPO stated that there was a low likelihood that cultural properties would be impacted and as such, felt a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time.
4. Fish and Wildlife – Animal life will not be significantly affected by the proposed project. The project will not affect any wildlife habitats, nor will any known endangered species be affected. The proposed project has water quality benefits that will protect and reduce the risk of harm to fisheries and other animals. In addition, the irrigation system will improve

the growth of vegetation enhancing habitat for animals and birds.

5. Water Quality - Water quality in the area is expected to be significantly improved due to the proposed project. The improved wastewater treatment facility will not require discharge to Hunt Coulee. Instead it will replace the existing direct discharge to Hunt Coulee and the effluent will be land applied to agricultural ground north of the existing lagoons. The new facilities will replace the native clay cell liner with a synthetic liner that will eliminate any excessive leakage to groundwater and will protect down gradient users. The irrigation plan will require that the treated wastewater be applied at agronomic rates so that nitrogen does not impact the groundwater.
6. Air Quality - Short-term negative impacts on air quality are expected to occur during construction from heavy equipment in the form of dust and exhaust fumes. Proper construction practices will minimize this problem. Project specifications will require dust control. The lagoons may cause odors during certain times of the year. The treatment system will be designed to minimize odors by providing the ability to split influent flows to two lagoons. With the lagoons located down wind from the town, odors are not expected to be a common problem.
7. Public Health - Public health will not be negatively affected by the proposed project. The project will eliminate a significant risk to public health associated with the discharge. Sewage treatment will improve, which will reduce the potential to pollute ground and surface waters.
8. Energy – No appreciable change in energy consumption is anticipated. There will be some power requirements for the irrigation equipment; however, this usage is considered minimal.
9. Noise - Short-term impacts from excessive noise levels may occur during the construction activities. The construction period will be limited to normal daytime hours to avoid early morning or late evening construction disturbances. No significant long-term impacts from noise will occur.
10. Sludge Disposal - As part of this project, sludge will be removed from the existing lagoons. The sludge will be disposed of in accordance with EPA's 503 regulations.
11. Growth - Improvements of the wastewater collection and treatment system may result in minor secondary impacts that are associated with the growth of the community. These can include impacts to: housing and commercial development, agricultural lands, solid waste, transportation and utilities. However, given the small increase projected for the town's population, no significant impacts are anticipated.
12. Cumulative Effects - No significant adverse impacts are anticipated.

B. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Short-term construction related impacts (i.e., noise, dust, traffic disruption, etc.) will occur, but should be minimized through proper construction management. Energy consumption during construction cannot be avoided.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation for this project included a press release and hearing January 3, 2007. At the public hearing, the need for the project and recommended alternatives were discussed. Cost estimates for the project and impacts on rates were presented. Comments from the public were about odor problems and funding.

VII. AGENCY ACTION, APPLICABLE REGULATIONS AND PERMITTING AUTHORITIES

No additional permits will be required from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) section of the DEQ for this project after the review of the submitted plans and specifications. However, coverage under the storm water general discharge permit is required from the DEQ Water Protection Bureau prior to the beginning of construction.

VIII. RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

Rationale for Recommendation: Through this EA, the DEQ has verified that none of the adverse impacts of the proposed Dutton Wastewater Improvements project are significant. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. Kathleen Miller, P.E., representing the Department of Commerce, Treasure State Endowment Program reviewed the EA on July 27, 2009, and is in concurrence with the findings of the MDEQ. The environmental review was conducted in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.4.607, 17.4.608, 17.4.609, and 17.4.610. The EA is the appropriate level of analysis because none of the adverse effects of the impacts are significant.

IX. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following documents have been utilized in the environmental review of this project and are considered to be part of the project file:

1. Preliminary Engineering Report for the Town of Dutton for Wastewater System Improvements, 2006, prepared by Great West Engineering.
2. Uniform Application Form for Montana Public Facility Projects for the Dutton Wastewater System Improvements, April 2008 prepared by Great West Engineering.
3. Design Report –Town of Dutton, MT Wastewater Improvements, June 2009 prepared by Great West Engineering.

X. AGENCIES CONSULTED

The following agencies have been contacted in regard to the proposed construction of this project:

1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the proposed project and determined that no federally listed species or designated critical habitat occurs within the project area.
2. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) indicated that the flood plain in the area has not been mapped. Dutton does not participate in the National flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and, therefore, no floodplain restrictions apply.
3. The Montana Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed the proposed project. According to their records, there have been no previously recorded sites within the designated search locales. SHPO stated that there was a low likelihood that cultural properties would be impacted and, as such, felt a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time.
4. The U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) reviewed the proposed project. The USCOE is responsible for administering Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the excavation or placement of dredged or fill material below the ordinary high water mark of our nation's rivers, streams, lakes or in wetlands. The USCOE indicated that it does not appear that the proposed project will impact any waterways. The USCOE asked that a permit application be submitted if the final design requires the placement of fill material in any jurisdictional waters.
5. The Federal Aviation Administration reviewed the proposed project. They indicated that they are aware that the adjacent sewage lagoon has been existence for some time. They advised that the community monitor waterfowl activity, and if there is a presence of waterfowl that have the potential to conflict with aircraft operations, recommend that steps be taken to mitigate the conflict.
6. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks was contacted regarding any impacts to threatened or endangered species due to the proposed project. They indicated that they had no fish or wildlife concerns.
7. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality reviewed the proposed project and had comments concerning the required water quality permits for construction related activities. Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) storm water and construction dewatering permits may be necessary for the project. In addition, a 318 authorization (short term water quality standard for turbidity) and a 401 certification may also be required. If a discharge to state waters is anticipated, a MPDES discharge permit or a Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System permit must be obtained prior to construction.

EA Prepared by:

Thomas J. Slovarp, P.E.

Date

EA Reviewed by:

Paul LaVigne, P.E.

Date

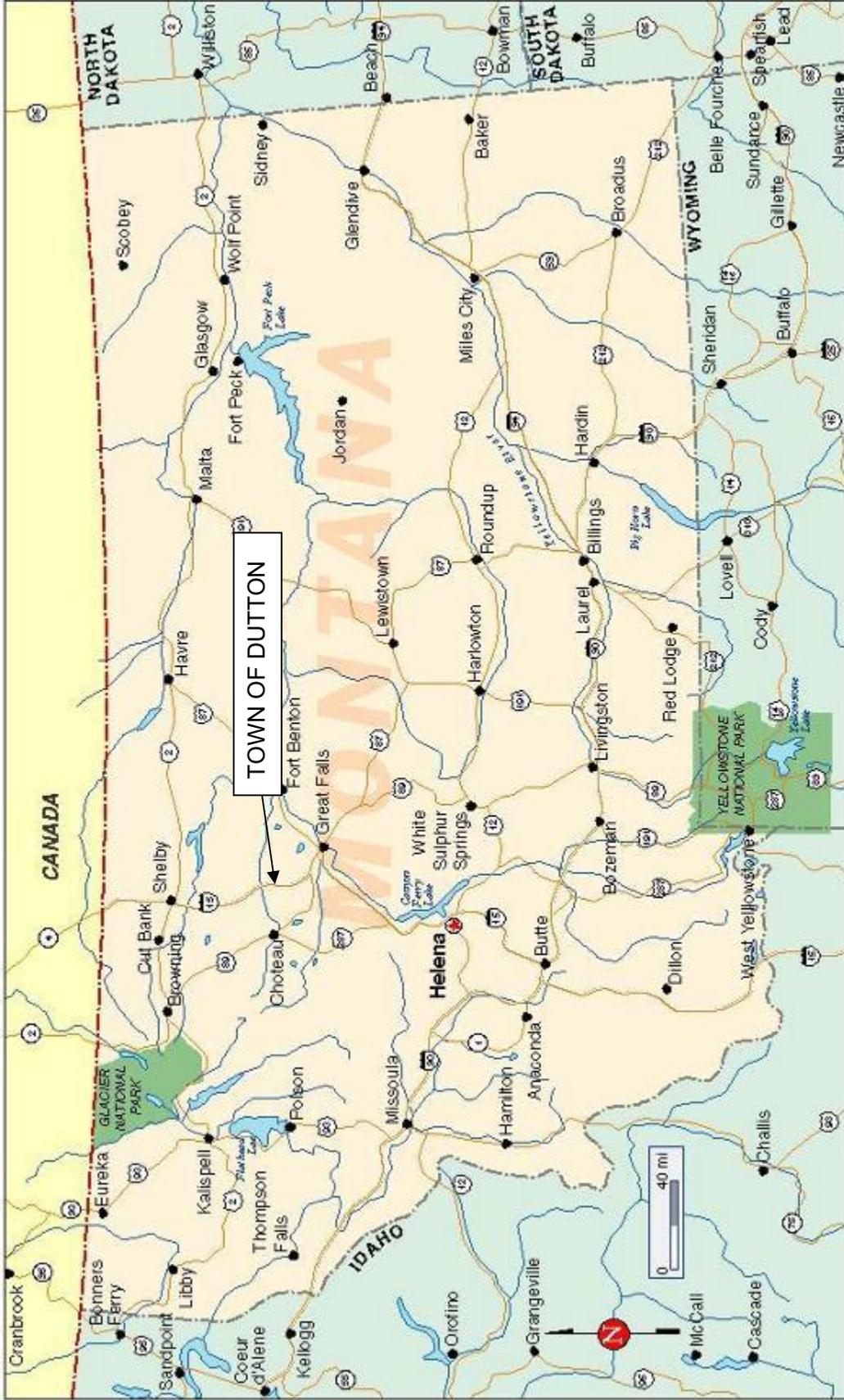
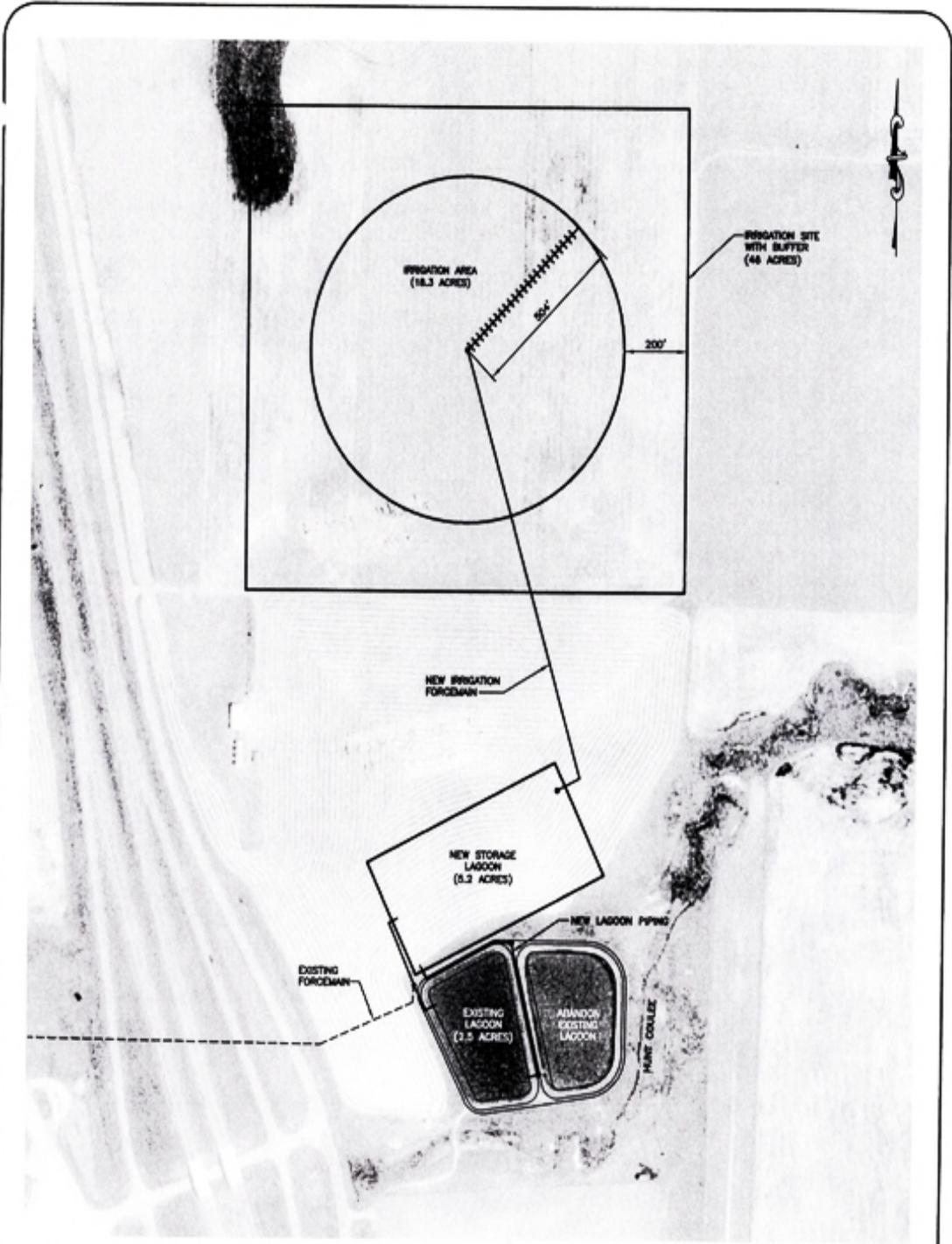


FIGURE 1





TOWN OF DUTTON
 WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS
 FACULTATIVE LAGOON
 WITH SPRAY IRRIGATION

FIGURE 6-3
 FIGURE 3

