



Brian Schweitzer, Governor
Richard H. Opper, Director

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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER AUTHORITY
EAST MEDICINE LAKE PIPELINES AND PACKAGE PUMP STATION**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date: 7/19/11
Action: Water System Improvements Project
Location of Project: Sheridan County, Montana
DEQ Funding: \$539,500
Total Project Cost: \$2,772,214

An environmental review has been conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding construction of a drinking water distribution system and pump station by the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority (DPRWA) in Sheridan County.

The proposed action consists of the installation of approximately 90.5 miles of PVC drinking water pipes ranging from 1.5-inch service lines to 14-inch transmission mains located in Sheridan County. Also a package pump station will be installed in the south west corner of Township 32 North Range 56 East Section 9. This project includes 15 road crossings, 5 stream crossings and 2 salt water crossings.

The affected environment is an area in Sheridan County bounded by a line on the south one mile south of the town of Medicine Lake east to the North Dakota Border then north 14.1 miles then west 20.6 miles then south 14.1 miles back to the point of origin. The human environment affected will include residents and visitors of Sheridan County in Montana. Based on the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment, including environmental commitments detailed in the 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.

The DEQ utilized the following references in completing its environmental review of this project: (1) the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System, Fort Peck Reservation and Dry Prairie Service Areas, dated October 2002. The lead agency for the EA was the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation (The Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation were cooperating agencies in preparation of the EA); (2) Contract Legal Documents, Specifications and Drawings dated June 2011 For East Medicine Lake Project Schedule 1 - Pipeline; (3) Design

Report for East Medicine Lake Project dated November 2010. References 2 and 3 were prepared by DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates Company; (4) Review of potential contaminant sources completed by the source water protection section of DEQ. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

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Or:

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Comments on this finding or on the EA may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the date of publication of this FONSI in the newspaper. After evaluating substantive comments received, DEQ will revise the EA or determine if an EIS is necessary. Otherwise, this finding of no significant impact will stand 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.

Signed,



Todd Teegarden, Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau

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