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Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Website: [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov)

**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-11-26**  
**October 3, 2011**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, statement of basis, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov).

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: City of Colstrip

FACILITY NAME: City of Colstrip Sewage Treatment Plant

FACILITY LOCATION: Sewage Plant Road, Rosebud County

RECEIVING WATER: East Fork Armells Creek

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0022373

The Colstrip Sewage Treatment Plant (Colstrip STP) consists of a mechanical oxidation ditch. Treated wastewater is clarified and disinfected with an ultra violet (UV) disinfection system before it is pumped to lagoon cells 2 and 3 for storage. A new lift station and pipeline were installed at the Colstrip STP after the City of Colstrip assumed responsibility for the sewage treatment plant from Rosebud County. The lift station and pipeline can pump treated wastewater to either lagoon cells 2 and 3 or to the wastewater storage pond at the Ponderosa Butte Golf Course (PBGC) where it is stored before it is used for irrigation. A valve in the lift station also controls a potential discharge to East Fork Armells Creek.

On September 21, 2000, a U.S. District Judge issued an order stating that until all necessary total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act are established for a particular water quality limited segment, the State is not to issue any new permits or increase permitted discharges under the MPDES program. The order was issued in the lawsuit Friends of the Wild Swan

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v. U.S. EPA, et al., CV 97-35-M-DWM, District of Montana, Missoula Division. The Department finds that the issuance of this proposed permit does not conflict with the order because it is not a new permit and the renewed permit will reduce the pollutant load to East Fork Armells Creek.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS November 2, 2011. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS November 2, 2011 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail Noelle Uncles or Barb Sharpe at [WPBPublicNotices@mt.gov](mailto:WPBPublicNotices@mt.gov).

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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