



Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P. O. Box 200901

Helena, MT 59620-0901

(406) 444-2544

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-13-03  
February 19, 2013**

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, fact sheet, 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 Great Falls  
P.O. Box 5021  
Great Falls, MT 59404

FACILITY NAME: City of Great Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant

FACILITY LOCATION: 1600 6<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Great Falls, Cascade County, MT

RECEIVING WATER: Missouri River

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0021920

This Public Notice is for a major modification of Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit number MT0021920, for the Great Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The WWTP is an activated sludge treatment system with anaerobic sludge digestion and chlorine disinfection, which serves the residents and businesses of the City of Great Falls, the communities of Black Eagle and Malmstrom Air Force Base, and some areas of Cascade County. It was built in 1974 with an average daily design flow of 21 million gallons per day (mgd); however proposed upgrades to the facility will reduce the average daily design flow to 13.3 mgd.

The effluent is continuously discharged to the Missouri River at Outfall 003. DEQ reviewed the

mixing zone study submitted by Great Falls as part of the application for a major modification. Based on the results of the study, the proposed operating conditions, and updated background concentrations in the Missouri River, DEQ is proposing the following changes to the Great Falls WWTP MPDES permit:

- Provide source-specific mixing zone for ammonia, nitrate, arsenic, copper, selenium, and thallium;
- Extend the effective date for the final *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) bacteria and Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) effluent limits by one year, to correspond with the final effluent limits for the above parameters;
- Recognize that flow monitoring will be considered “calculated” rather than “continuous” since the WWTP will use SCADA data to track various inputs and outputs.

On September 21, 2000, a U.S. District Judge issued an order stating that until all necessary total maximum daily loads 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 v. U.S. EPA, et al.*, CA 97-35-M-DWM, District of Montana, Missoula Division. DEQ finds that the issuance of this proposed permit does not conflict with the order because: 1) the discharge is in compliance with the provisions of 75-5-303, MCA (Nondegradation Policy); and 2) the discharge will not cause a decline in water quality for the parameters for which the water body is listed.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 19, 2013. 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 March 19, 2013 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 David Dunbar 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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