



Montana Department of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

*"Healthy environment, healthy people"*

Steve Bullock, Governor  
Tracy Stone-Manning, Director

P. O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • Website: [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
CITY OF THREE FORKS, MONTANA

2013 WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

MAY 14, 2013

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above-named project. The project consists of rehabilitation of the city's two water storage tanks, replacement and looping of 6,200 lineal feet of water distribution mains, rehabilitation of an existing well (Well #10), upgrading the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, and purchase of the site of an existing municipal water supply well (Well #6) and building.

The proposed water main improvements will take place at the following locations:

1. Grove Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East
2. Two blocks between Adams Street and Front Street extending from Illinois Street to Dakota Street
3. Ivy Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East
4. Extend an existing main on Bench Road, looping around the talc plant, under the railroad tracks, and connecting to the existing main at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West and Ivy Street

Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the department has concluded that the proposed project meets the categorical exclusion criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

The documentation for this categorical exclusion is available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality  
State Revolving Fund Loan Program  
1520 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

Three Forks City Office  
206 Main Street  
Three Forks, MT 59752

Sincerely,

Todd Teegarden, Bureau Chief  
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau  
Planning Prevention and Assistance Division  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: Three Forks 2013 Water System Improvements Project.  
Rehabilitation of the city's two water storage tanks, replacement and looping of 6,200 lineal feet of water distribution mains, rehabilitation of an existing well, upgrading the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, and purchase of the site of an existing municipal water supply well and building.

Date: May 14, 2013

Reviewer: Gary J. Wiens, P.E.

The Department action under Title 75, chapter 5, part 11 and or chapter 6, part 1 or 2, MCA, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

**(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems that involve:**

*[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]*

No 1. minor upgrading;

No 2. minor expansion of system capacity;

Yes 3. rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components;

No 4. construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or

No 5. projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges.

**(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:**

*[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]*

No 6. the action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

No 7. the action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

No 8. the action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

No 9. the action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

No 10. the action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending

infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

No 11. the department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

No 12. the department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 17.4.608, or might possibly affect:

- (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
- (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

**(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items 13 - 17 as follows:**

*[Once all steps 1- 17 are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]*

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. DEQ determination of Categorical Exclusion.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. DEQ distributes the Notice of Determination.

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient.

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer.

**(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:**

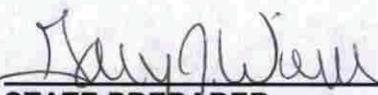
*[Only complete the steps below 18 - 21 if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]*

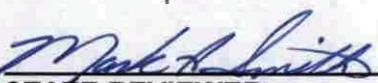
\_\_\_\_\_ 18. the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted;

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. the proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action;

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. new evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or

\_\_\_\_\_ 21. state, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STATE PREPARER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STATE REVIEWER

\_\_\_\_\_  
COMPLETION DATE

## Memorandum

**To:** Gary Wiens, SRF Section  
**From:** Joe Meek, SWP Section  
**Date:** May 8, 2013

**Re:** Potential Contaminant Source Review for the Three Forks 2013 Water System Improvements

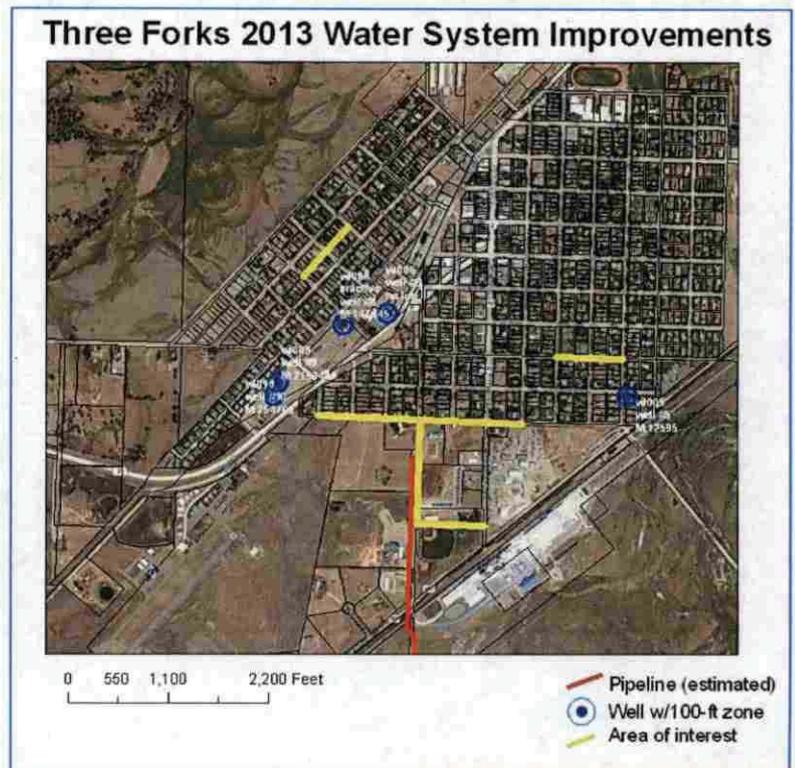
I reviewed the project area for potential contaminant sources (PCSs) and identified the following (see also the attached map):

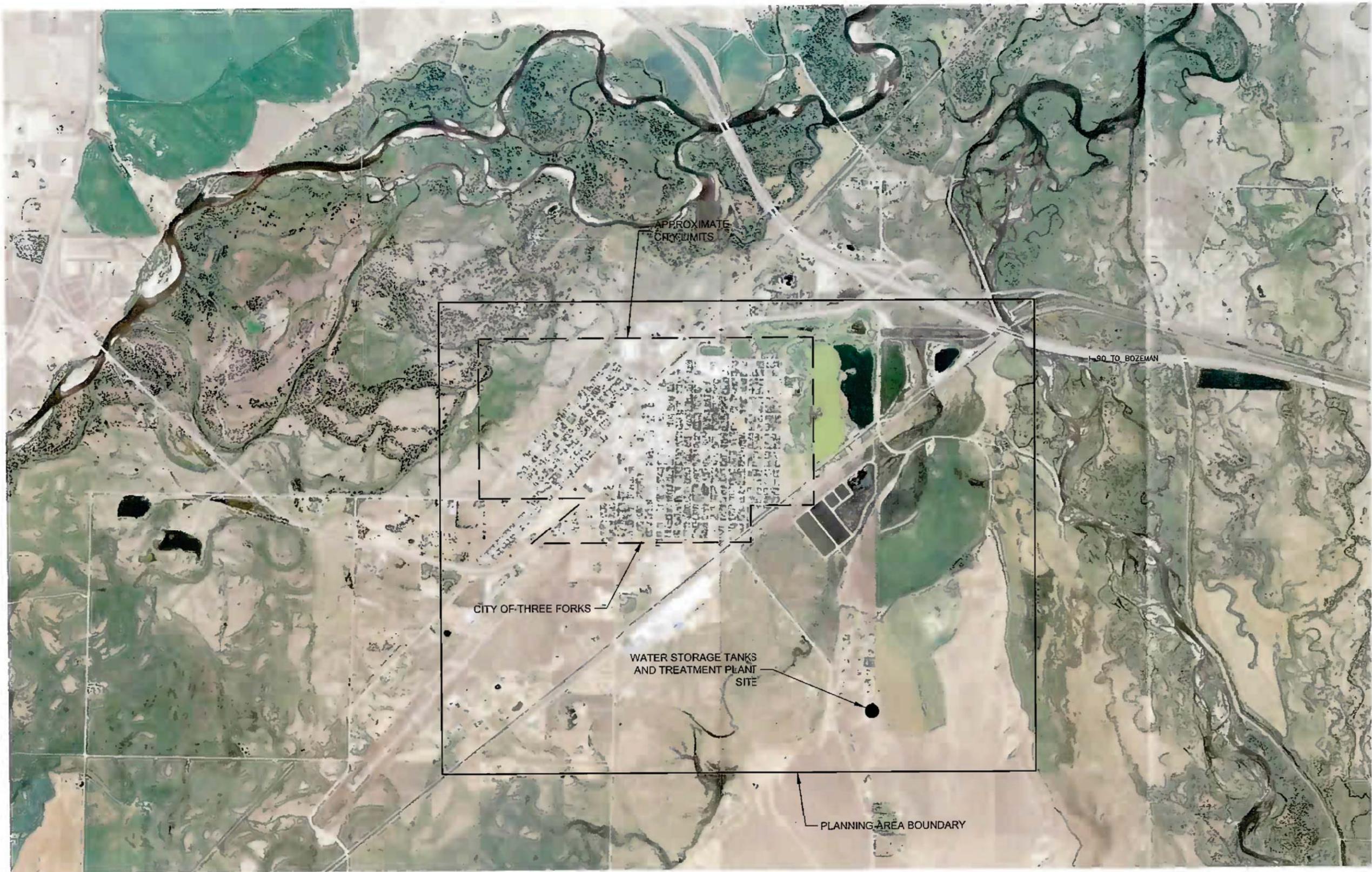
- A Northwestern Energy gas pipeline extends north from Old Yellowstone Trail along Bench Road.

Review of potential contaminant sources included the following databases: underground fuel storage tanks (USTs), petroleum leak sites, active and abandoned mine sites, remediation response sites (including federal and state superfund sites, Montana Agricultural Chemical Groundwater Protection Act Sites, Water Quality Act Sites, landfills, transportation routes (roads/ railroads), petroleum pipelines, and hazardous waste handlers.

The potential sources of contaminants described above are identified from readily available information. Consequently, unregulated activities or unreported contaminant releases may have been inadvertently overlooked. The use of multiple sources of information, however, should ensure that the majority of potential contaminant sources were addressed by this review.

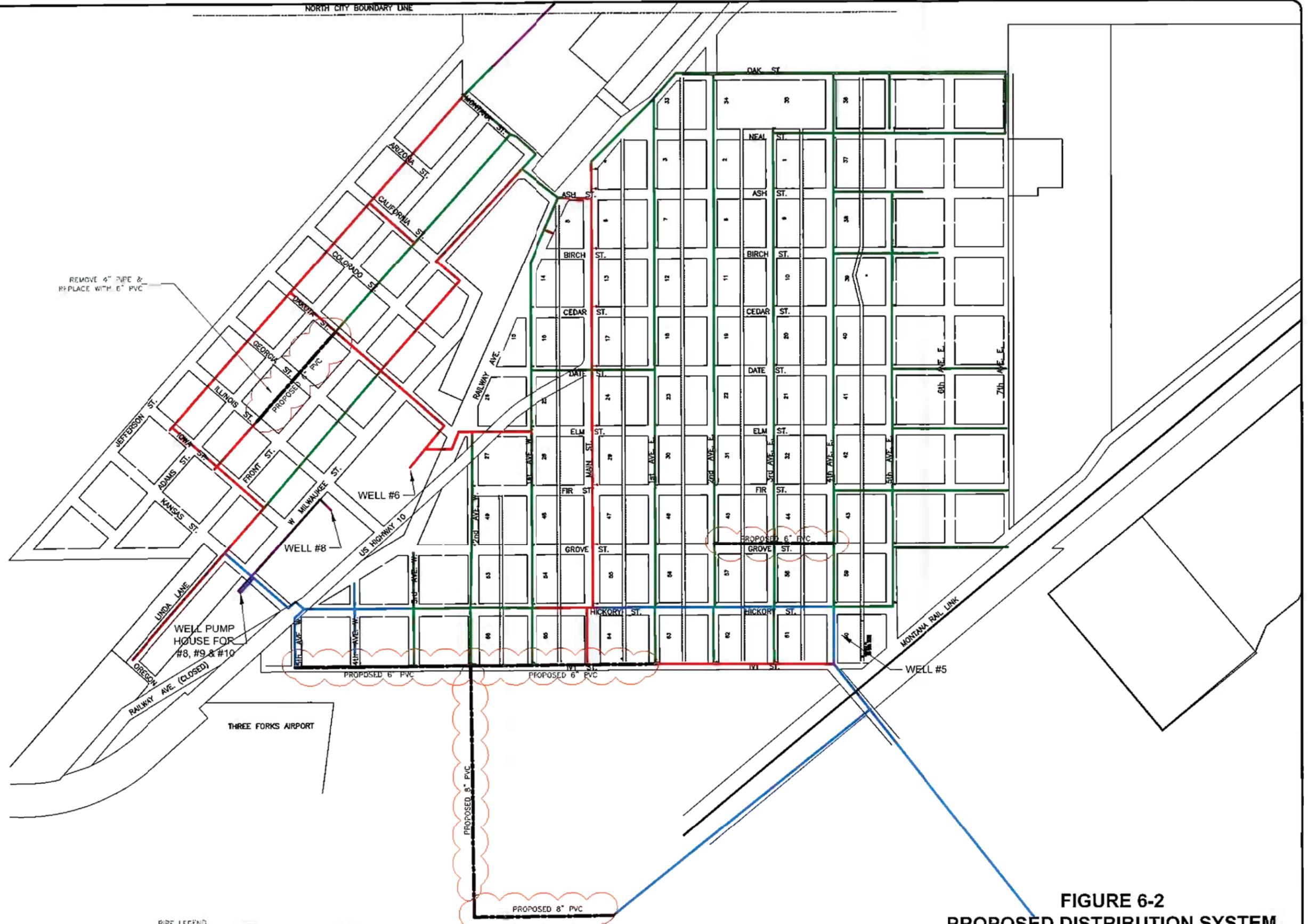
Please contact me if you have any questions.





**FIGURE 2-1  
VICINITY MAP**

CITY OF THREE FORKS  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS



REMOVE 4" PIPE & REPLACE WITH 6" PVC

PIPE LEGEND	
	EXISTING 10" PIPE
	EXISTING 8" PIPE
	EXISTING 6" PIPE
	EXISTING 4" PIPE
	PROPOSED PIPING



**FIGURE 6-2**  
**PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**  
CITY OF THREE FORKS  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS



F:\1-11232-THREE FORKS WATER\CADD 1-11232\EXHIBITS\1-11232-FIGURE 7-4 TANK SITE IMPROVEMENTS.DWG



**FIGURE 7-4  
PROPOSED TANK SITE  
IMPROVEMENTS**

CITY OF THREE FORKS  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS