

March 1, 2012

FINAL 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:

|                |  |
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| Project        | Bridger Pines Wastewater Treatment System Upgrade                |
| Location       | Bozeman, Montana   |
| Project Number | WPCSRF Project # C303192<br>DOC-TSEP Project # MT-TSEP-CG-10-472 |
| Total Cost     | \$2,841,000  |

The Bridger Pines County Water & Sewer District (District), through its May 2008 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) prepared by Stahly Engineering, Inc. (District engineer), has identified the need to make significant changes to their wastewater treatment system. The District's current wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) was constructed in 1974 to serve a portion of the lots in the Bridger Pines subdivision (BPS) and was designed to operate as a total retention system. The WWTF was constructed with clay liners to prevent water from rapidly percolating into the ground. However, the liners of both cells appear to have been breached and are allowing partially treated wastewater to quickly leak into groundwater. Wastewater also has overflowed the top of the cell dike resulting in an unauthorized discharge of inadequately treated wastewater. Both discharges are most likely contaminating the surface and groundwater.

The purpose of the proposed wastewater treatment facility upgrade is to provide a new treatment system that will meet MDEQ Circular DEQ-2 standards for all 58 platted lots in the District. The District proposes construction of a new wastewater treatment facility that will ultimately spray irrigate treated wastewater to a grass/hay site. The treatment facility proposed will consist of a community septic tank and multiple fixed film biological treatment modules (Level 2 treatment pods), which provide advanced wastewater treatment. Treated wastewater will be stored during the winter months in an approximate 2.8 million gallon lined cell and then during the growing season the water will be disinfected and pumped to the spray irrigation site for disposal. Disinfection of the treated wastewater will occur using a sodium hypochlorite system prior to discharge. Approximately 7.3 acres of land of grass/hay is required to apply the treated wastewater at agronomic rates. Approximately 2,750 feet of new gravity pipe and several new manholes will be necessary to convey the wastewater from the existing District collection system to the proposed storage cell. No improvements are proposed to the existing collection system.

Federal and State grant/loan programs will fund the project. Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, historical sites, and threatened or endangered species are not expected to be adversely impacted as a result of the proposed project.

Comments on the EA were submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality. After evaluating the comments received, the DEQ has concluded there will not be significant environmental impacts from the proposed project and the agency has made a final decision.

Sincerely,

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Todd Teegarden, Bureau Chief  
Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau