



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
HIGHWOOD WATER & SEWER DISTRICT, HIGHWOOD, MONTANA  
WPCSRF #: C301298  
LAGOON LINER, AERATION AND OUTFALL PIPE REPAIR PROJECT

May 31, 2018

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the Highwood W&S District Wastewater Treatment System Improvements project. The project consists of rehabilitation of the lagoon liners, repair or replacement of aeration piping, valves and diffusers and restoration of the outfall piping within Highwood Creek as needed within Highwood, MT.

The existing wastewater treatment system was constructed in 1999. The Highwood collection system was constructed in 1973. The collection system remains in good condition, but two of the lagoon cells reinforced polypropylene liner systems began failing in about 2008. At that time the operator began to notice holes at the upper level of the primary & secondary ponds due to sunlight exposure. Operations have changed since that time to keep water levels in the lagoons lower to avoid leaking untreated wastewater to the adjacent groundwater table and Highwood Creek. This change in operations has impacted treatment. Proposed improvements are to draw down each lagoon cell one at a time, remove sludge, replace the liner and then transfer wastewater over from the next cell and repeat the process. Aeration piping, valves and diffusers also need to be repaired and replaced to return the facility to operational conditions. The outfall piping may need to be excavated and exposed at the discharge end to remove silt and sediment that has deposited there. Sludge will be removed from the lagoons, dried to meet EPA 503 criteria and then transferred to an approved landfill facility. The lagoon improvements will be completed within the footprint of the existing wastewater treatment facility while the facility continues to serve the District. The work will be on property owned or under easement by the District.

Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality 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 Categorical Exclusion may be revoked if the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the Preliminary Engineering Report, a new or modified application is submitted, or new evidence demonstrates serious local or environmental issues exist, or state, local, tribal, or federal laws are violated.

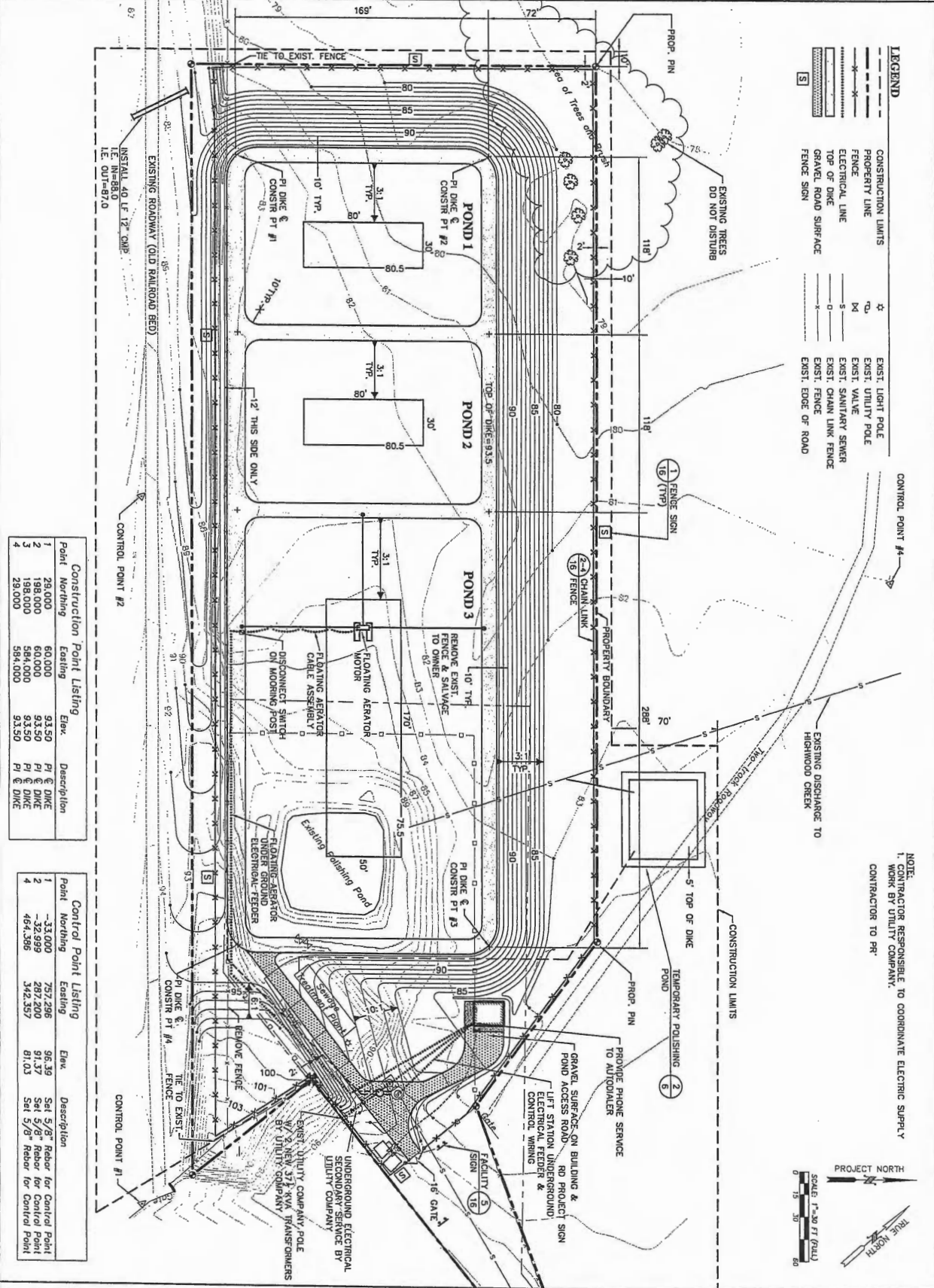
The documentation for the Categorical Exclusion is available for public review at the following locations:

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

Highwood W&S District  
145 South Main Street  
Highwood, MT 59450

Sincerely,

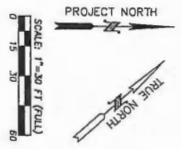
Paul LaVigne, Section Supervisor  
Engineering Bureau  
Water Quality Division  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality



**LEGEND**

---	CONSTRUCTION LIMITS	⊕	EXIST. LIGHT POLE
---	PROPERTY LINE	⊕	EXIST. UTILITY POLE
---	FENCE	⊕	EXIST. VALVE
---	ELECTRICAL LINE	⊕	EXIST. SANITARY SEWER
---	TOP OF DIKE	⊕	EXIST. CHAIN LINK FENCE
---	GRAVEL ROAD SURFACE	⊕	EXIST. FENCE
---	FENCE SIGN	⊕	EXIST. EDGE OF ROAD

NOTE:  
 1. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBLE TO COORDINATE ELECTRIC SUPPLY WORK BY UTILITY COMPANY.  
 CONTRACTOR TO PR.



**Construction Point Listing**

Point No.	Northing	Easting	Elev.	Description
1	28,000	60,000	93.50	PI & DIKE
2	198,000	60,000	93.50	PI & DIKE
3	180,000	93,500	93.50	PI & DIKE
4	28,000	584,000	93.50	PI & DIKE

**Control Point Listing**

Point No.	Northing	Easting	Elev.	Description
1	-33,000	757,296	96.39	Set 5/8" Rebar for Control Point
2	-32,999	297,200	91.37	Set 5/8" Rebar for Control Point
3	494,388	342,357	81.03	Set 5/8" Rebar for Control Point
4				Set 5/8" Rebar for Control Point

**SHEET TITLE**  
**SITE GRADING / ELECTRICAL PLAN**

**PROJECT TITLE**  
**HIGHWOOD WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS**

**SE Stelling Engineers, Inc.**  
 Engineering Planning Consulting  
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 600 Central Plaza  
 Great Falls, VT 05441  
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