



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor  
Curt Fransen, Director

January 13, 2014

Wynn Olsen, President  
Bennington Water System Inc.  
98 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Bennington  
Montpelier, Idaho 83254

RE: Draft finding of no significant impact for the Bennington Water System Drinking Water Improvement Project (DWG 115-2011-8)

Dear Mr. Olsen:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the environmental information document for the Bennington Water System (System). The potential impacts on a number of environmentally sensitive resources were evaluated in the environmental review. The Bennington Water System's project engineer consulted with a number of appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant issues. The project meets state and federal criteria for issuance of a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) since the environmental review process indicated no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project.

A FONSI legal notice will be published in the *News-Examiner*, newspaper of greatest distribution for the System. DEQ has requested the *News-Examiner* publish the legal notice one time, on one day, on January 22, 2014. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain a copy of the full FONSI for review and will give instructions on how they can submit comments. A 30-day public comment period will follow the FONSI legal notice publication. If public comments and concerns arise related to the project or FONSI, DEQ may ask your help in preparing responses.

Following the 30-day public comment period, any significant comments or concerns will be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the final FONSI determination for the referenced project. After issuance of the final FONSI, and with approval of all technical considerations in the planning document, DEQ will close the DEQ planning grant and proceed with the State Revolving Fund loan.

Craig Borrenpohl at the DEQ Pocatello Regional Office, (208) 239-5016, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project.

Wynn Olsen, President  
Bennington Water System Inc.  
January 13, 2014  
Page 2

Refer comments regarding the environmental review to Ester Ceja in the State Office at  
(208) 373-0585 or Ester.Ceja@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:EC:dls

Enclosures

c: Tim Wendland, DEQ State Office  
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office  
Mike May, DEQ State Office  
Craig Borrenpohl, DEQ Pocatello Regional Office  
Matthew Hill, Keller Associates ([mhill@kellerassociates.com](mailto:mhill@kellerassociates.com))  
Dennis Porter, Idaho Department of Commerce, ([Dennis.Porter@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:Dennis.Porter@commerce.idaho.gov))  
Noel LaRoque, USDA-Rural Development, ([Noel.LaRoque@id.usda.gov](mailto:Noel.LaRoque@id.usda.gov))  
Kent Erickson, USDA-Rural Development, ([Kent.Erickson@id.usda.gov](mailto:Kent.Erickson@id.usda.gov))

## DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Date:** January 13, 2014

**To:** All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals

**Subject:** Environmental determination for the Bennington Water System Drinking Water Improvement Project

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), the “Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities” (IDAPA 58.01.22), and the “Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program” (IDAPA 58.01.20), an environmental review has been performed and a draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is hereby issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Project:	Bennington Water System Drinking Water Improvement Project
Location:	Bennington, Bear Lake County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	DWG 115-2011-8
DEQ Grant Cost:	\$20,000.00
DEQ Loan Number:	DW1304
Total Loan Project Cost:	\$1,500,000.00

### PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

**Purpose of Project:** The purpose of the proposed project is to address water quality, water source, and distribution system deficiencies.

**Description of the Project:** The proposed project involves improvements to the system’s water source water storage, disinfection, and distribution improvements. Source water improvements will take place at Spring 2. The improvements consist of new piping, replacement of the surface seal, and grading work to prevent surface water from standing at the site. Water storage improvements consist of the construction of a new storage reservoir adjacent to the existing storage reservoir. The system will construct a sodium hypochlorite disinfection system and building next to the tank site. Distribution system improvements include: new transmission line from water tanks along 1<sup>st</sup> North to 1<sup>st</sup> West; bore under Highway 30 along 1<sup>st</sup> North and install a new transmission line; new transmission line along 2<sup>nd</sup> East connecting Center Street and 1<sup>st</sup> South and 1<sup>st</sup> South to 1<sup>st</sup> West.

**Direct and Indirect Impacts:** An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by Keller Associates, consulting engineer for the Bennington Water System (System). Keller Associates and DEQ consulted with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on consultation with agency experts, Keller Associates and DEQ evaluated the potential short-term and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the drinking water improvement project. The evaluation emphasized site-specific components of the environment that are most likely to be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed improvements. The results of the project evaluation indicate there will be environmental effects from the referenced project as described below.

Short-term impacts may occur during project construction that includes temporary disruption of the distribution system, increased noise, increased dust pollution, increased potential for stormwater runoff, and disruption of localized traffic conditions. The project contractor is responsible for managing the temporary disruptions of the system as follows:

- **Air Quality:** Temporary dust pollution impacts will be controlled as a condition of the construction specifications in accordance with the “Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho” (IDAPA 58.01.01.651). IDAPA 58.01.01.651 states that reasonable precautions shall be taken for dust control and suppression by using water or chemicals, applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials. In addition to the rule requirements, DEQ recommends that a dust prevention and control plan be implemented during construction of the project that includes best management practices (BMPs) to minimize dust pollution for fugitive dust control. Emergency generators must comply with Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (RICE NESHAPS).
- **Cultural Resources:** If archeological artifacts (such as beads, arrow heads, pottery, fabric, grave goods, glass, metal fragments, or other human-made objects that appear to predate 1960) or human remains (such as bones, bone fragments, or teeth) are inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO), Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, and the Northwestern Band, Shoshone, shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribes, and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent. If human remains are discovered, the Bear Lake Sheriff’s Office and the Bear Lake County Coroner will be contacted and work will not resume until law enforcement has also released the site.
- **Stormwater:** Stormwater runoff shall be handled through an Environmental Protection Agency Stormwater Construction General permit and the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP and stormwater BMPs will be implemented prior to, during, and after project construction to reduce the potential for erosion from runoff.
- Noise impacts from the project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.
- Implement any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

The following permits will be required for this project:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit
- Any other local, state, or federal permit required for activities taking place during project construction.

**Beneficial Impacts:** Overall, the completion of the proposed project will have long-term positive effects by providing a reliable good quality water source and supply.

**Finding:** The review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared for the proposed project. Instead, a FONSI is hereby issued by DEQ. This decision is made following a careful review of the April 2013 *Bennington Water System, Inc. Water Facilities Planning Study*, January 2014 *Environmental Information Document for Bennington Water System, Inc. Water System Improvements Project*, and supporting documentation.

**AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:**

Copies of the notice of a FONSI, April 2013 *Bennington Water System, Inc. Water Facilities Planning Study*, January 2014 *Environmental Information Document for Bennington Water System, Inc. Water System Improvements Project*, and supporting documentation upon which it is based are available for public review on DEQ's website at [www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities) or at the following locations:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Division  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
Grant/loan SERP contact: Ester Ceja, 208-373-0585

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Pocatello Regional Office  
444 Hospital Way, #300  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201  
Regional Office contact: Craig Borrenpohl, 208-239-5016

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *News-Examiner*, one time in the January 22, 2014 publication.

**Public Comments:** Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision must be submitted on DEQ's website [www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities) or addressed to the following contact:

Ester Ceja  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Division, Grant and Loan Program  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706

All comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before February 24, 2014. After an evaluation of public comment, DEQ will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after publication of the draft FONSI notice.



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Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

## LEGAL NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Date:** January 13, 2014

**To:** All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals

**Subject:** Environmental determination for the Bennington Water System Drinking Water Improvement Project

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), "Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities" (IDAPA 58.01.22), and the "Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program" (IDAPA 58.01.20), an environmental review has been performed and a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the following project:

Bennington Water System Drinking Water Improvement Project  
Bear Lake County  
Bennington, Idaho

This environmental determination was made as a result of the review process indicating no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project. There may be several environmental effects from the referenced project as described below.

Short-term impacts may occur during project construction that includes temporary disruption of the distribution system, increased noise, increased dust pollution, increased potential for stormwater runoff, and disruption of localized traffic conditions. The project contractor is responsible for managing the temporary disruptions of the system as follows:

- **Air Quality:** Temporary dust pollution impacts will be controlled as a condition of the construction specifications in accordance with the "Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho" (IDAPA 58.01.01.651). IDAPA 58.01.01.651 states that reasonable precautions shall be taken for dust control and suppression by using water or chemicals, applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials. In addition to the rule requirements, DEQ recommends that a dust prevention and control plan be implemented during construction of the project that includes best management practices (BMPs) to minimize dust pollution for fugitive dust control. Emergency generators must comply with Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (RICE NESHAPS).
- **Cultural Resources:** If archeological artifacts (such as beads, arrow heads, pottery, fabric, grave goods, glass, metal fragments, or other human-made objects that appear to predate 1960) or human remains (such as bones, bone fragments, or teeth) are inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO), Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, and the Northwestern Band, Shoshone, shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribes, and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent. If human remains are discovered, the Bear Lake Sheriff's Office and the Bear Lake County Coroner will be contacted and work will not resume until law enforcement has also released the site.
- **Stormwater:** Stormwater runoff shall be handled through an Environmental Protection Agency Stormwater Construction General permit and the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP and stormwater BMPs will be implemented prior to, during, and after project construction to reduce the potential for erosion from runoff.
- Noise impacts from the project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.

- Implement any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

The following permits will be required for this project:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit
- Any other local, state, or federal permit required for activities taking place during project construction.

**Beneficial Impacts:** Overall, the completion of the proposed project will have long-term positive effects by providing a reliable good quality water source and supply.

**Description of the Project:** The proposed project involves improvements to the system's water source water storage, disinfection, and distribution improvements. Source water improvements will take place at Spring 2. The improvements consist of new piping, replacement of the surface seal, and grading work to prevent surface water from standing at the site. Water storage improvements consist of the construction of a new storage reservoir adjacent to the existing storage reservoir. The system will construct a sodium hypochlorite disinfection system and building next to the tank site. Distribution system improvements include: new transmission line from water tanks along 1st North to 1st West; bore under Highway 30 along 1st North and install a new transmission line; new transmission line along 2nd East connecting Center Street and 1st South and 1st South to 1st West.

**Copies Available:** Copies of the full FONSI April 2013 *Bennington Water System, Inc. Water Facilities Planning Study*, January 2014 *Environmental Information Document for Bennington Water System, Inc. Water System Improvements Project*, and supporting documentation upon which it is based are available for public review on DEQ's website at [www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities) or at the following locations:

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Pocatello Regional Office  
444 Hospital Way, #300  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201  
Regional Office contact: Craig Borrenpohl, 208-239-5016

**Public Comments:** Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision must be submitted on DEQ's website at [www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities) or addressed to the following contact:

Ester Ceja  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Division, Loan Program  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706

Such comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before February 24, 2014. Public comments will be considered in finalizing the planning phase of the project. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date of publication.

Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator