



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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

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

July 14, 2014

President John Buttles  
Comore Loma Water Corporation  
P.O. Box 1863  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404

RE: Environmental determination for the Comore Loma Drinking Water Improvements (DW1407)

Dear Mr. Buttles:

A draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on May 30, 2014 for the Comore Loma Drinking Water Improvements based on a careful review of the environmental information document prepared by Schiess & Associates.

The draft FONSI was published on June 6, 2014 in the Idaho Falls *Post-Register*, newspaper of general circulation for the Comore Loma service area. Comments were received during the 30-day public comment period following publication. The final FONSI has been revised to include the comments received and the agency's responses.

This completes the environmental review of this project. William Teuscher, P.E., at the DEQ Idaho Falls Regional Office, (208) 528-2666, is your local contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project. For questions regarding the environmental review, contact Mike May at [Michael.May@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Michael.May@deq.idaho.gov) or (208) 373-0406.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry N. Burnell".

Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB: MLM:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office (TRIM)  
William Teuscher, P.E., Idaho Falls Regional Office  
Paul H. Scoresby, P.E., Schiess & Associates ([pscoresby@schieseng.com](mailto:pscoresby@schieseng.com))

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Date:** July 14, 2014  
**To:** All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals  
**Subject:** Environmental determination for the Comore Loma Drinking Water Improvements

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

Project:	Comore Loma Drinking Water Improvements
Location:	Bonneville County, Idaho
DEQ Loan Number:	DW1407
Total Loan Project Cost:	\$3,050,000

### PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

**Purpose of Project:** The purpose of the proposed project is to protect public health and safety by addressing deficiencies in capacity, redundancy and fire flows.

**Description of the Project:** The proposed project involves

- Replacement of an existing water storage tank with a new 422,000-gallon Tank 1;
- Installation of a booster pump station at Tank 1;
- Installation of new 533,000-gallon Tank 3;
- Installation of transmission pipe along Middle Fork Drive to Tank 3;
- Addition of flow meters to existing pump stations;
- Installation of pumps and electrical in existing structure on Big Bend Street;
- Completion of Well 7, well house and ancillary equipment at the site of an existing test well;
- Installation of SCADA improvements for improved alarm and control;
- Purchase of a portable emergency generator and installation of switchgear; and
- Replacement of broken valves and installation of 24 fire hydrants along existing water mains.

**Direct and Indirect Impacts:** An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by Schiess & Associates (Schiess), consulting engineer for the Comore Loma Water Corporation (Comore Loma). Schiess and DEQ consulted with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on consultation with agency experts, Schiess 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.
- **Cultural Resources:** If archeological artifacts (such as beads, arrowheads, 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 and Shoshone-Paiute Tribe shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribe(s), and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.
- **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 additional permits will be required for this project:

- Land use permits from Bonneville County,
- Drilling permit from Idaho Department of Water Resources, and
- 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 through improving the reliability of the drinking water system and improving fire flows.

**Finding:** The review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a 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 January 2014 *Comore Loma Water System Facility Planning Study* and May 27, 2014 *Comore Loma Water System Facility Planning Study Environmental Information Document (EID)*.

**AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:**

Copies of this final FONSI and supporting documentation upon which it is based are available on DEQ's website at [www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx) or at the following locations:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Division  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
Grant/loan SERP contact: Mike May – (208) 373-0406

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Idaho Falls Regional Office  
900 North Skyline Drive, Suite B  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402  
Regional Office contact: William Teuscher, P.E. – (208) 528-2666

The public was informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the Idaho Falls *Post-Register*, one time in the June 6, 2014 publication.

**Public Comments:** Comments were submitted to DEQ for consideration during the 30-day public comment period. The comments submitted and the agency's responses are attached and are officially part of the Comore Loma Drinking Water Improvements record and the final FONSI. The attached responses to comments were sent to one commenter:

S. Paul Chambers  
Bchambers167@msn.com



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Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

**Response to Public Comments Received During the 30-Day Public Comment Period for the  
Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Comore Loma Drinking Water  
Improvements**

**July 10, 2014**

**Section 2: Non-EID and draft FONSI-Related Comments and Responses**

**NO TOPIC**

**Comment: Allow them to go ahead with project.**

**Response: Thank you for your comment. You did not say so, but I believe you were commenting on the Comore Loma Drinking Water Improvements. As a board member of the Groveland Water and Sewer District, do you have a professional connection to the project?**

**Reply: No connection but my daughters used that camp a few years ago. Paul**

**Response: The comment does not pertain to the issues addressed in the Draft FONSI or the contents of the Environmental Information Document for this specific project.**