



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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

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

December 30, 2014

John Cuthbert, Chairman  
South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sewer District  
P.O. Box 783  
Osburn, Idaho 83849

RE: Categorical exclusion for the South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sewer District, Mullan Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements (WWG 365-2014-1)

Dear Mr. Cuthbert:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the categorical exclusion request letter and supporting documentation for the South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sewer District (District), Mullan wastewater treatment facility improvements. DEQ has issued a categorical exclusion (Cat Ex) determination. A Cat Ex exempts the referenced project from further substantive environmental review requirements because no environmental effects were found. Enclosed is a signed copy of the Cat Ex for the referenced project.

DEQ has requested that the *Shoshone News-Press*, newspaper of greatest distribution for the District, publish the enclosed Cat Ex legal notice for the referenced project one time on January 7, 2015. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain copies of the full Cat Ex.

The South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sewer District should keep a copy of the Cat Ex and the legal notice as published for their records. No required public comment or waiting period is required after notification of a Cat Ex.

Katy Baker-Casile at the DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, (208) 666-4640 is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep her informed of progress on the project.

Sincerely,

*TAW* FOR B.N.B.

Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:EC:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office  
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office  
Katy Baker-Casile, DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office  
Christopher Horgan, JUB Engineers ([chorgan@jub.com](mailto:chorgan@jub.com))  
Steve James, JUB Engineers ([sjames@jub.com](mailto:sjames@jub.com))  
Noel LaRoque, USDA-Rural Development ([LaRoque.Noel@id.usda.gov](mailto:LaRoque.Noel@id.usda.gov))

LEGAL NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR THE  
South Fork Coeur d'Alene River Sewer District, Mullan Wastewater  
Treatment Facility Improvements

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the proposed wastewater treatment facility improvements for the South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sewer District, Shoshone County, Idaho, conforms to the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), the "Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants" (IDAPA 58.01.04), and the "Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans" (IDAPA 58.01.12) by which the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements.

**Project Description:** The proposed improvements to the Mullan wastewater treatment facility include replacements and upgrades of existing facilities and equipment that will occur inside existing buildings and structures.

- Upgrades to the existing influent lift station
- Recoating of the existing chlorine contact chamber
- Upgrades to the disinfection and dechlorination system
- Recoating of solids holding basin and upgrades to the biosolids process within the existing solids holding/aeration basin structure
- Inclusion of control upgrades and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) in an existing facility, and
- Pilot testing liquid chemical feed system and various chemicals for alkalinity addition.

Copies of the notice of categorical exclusion and the environmental information document upon which it is based are available for public review 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: Ester Ceja  
208-373-0585

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Coeur d'Alene Regional Office  
2110 Ironwood Parkway  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814  
Regional Office contact: Katy Baker-Casile  
208-769-4640

South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sewer District  
1020 Polaris Avenue  
Osburn, Idaho 83849  
Contact: John Cuthbert, Chairman  
208-753-8041

December 30, 2014

**Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed  
South Fork Coeur d'Alene River Sewer District,  
Mullan Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements,  
Shoshone County, Mullan, Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the December 19, 2014 *Categorical Exclusion Request for Proposed Improvements at the South Fork Sewer District Mullan Wastewater Treatment Facility* in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), the "Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants" (IDAPA 58.01.04), and the "Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans" (IDAPA 58.01.12). DEQ has determined that this project does not involve any extraordinary circumstances requiring additional environmental analysis and documentation and is therefore eligible for a categorical exclusion (Cat Ex). Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under the SERP.

**Project Description:** The proposed improvements to the Mullan wastewater treatment facility include replacements and upgrades of existing facilities and equipment that will occur inside existing buildings and structures.

- Upgrades to the existing influent lift station
- Recoating of the existing chlorine contact chamber
- Upgrades to the disinfection and dechlorination system
- Recoating of solids holding basin and upgrades to the biosolids process within the existing solids holding/aeration basin structure
- Inclusion of control upgrades and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) in an existing facility, and
- Pilot testing liquid chemical feed system and various chemicals for alkalinity addition.

DEQ has determined that this project is consistent with criteria for issuing a Cat Ex for the following reasons:

- The proposed facility improvements are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.
- The facility improvements will not provide the capacity to serve a population that is projected to grow at a rate 25% in excess of the 20-year population growth rate expectations for the state as a whole according to the Idaho Division of Financial Management projections, and is not expected to change the current system's population by greater than 500 estimated residential units.
- There will be no significant effect on the quality of the human environment either individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other federal, state, local, or private actions as a result of this project.
- There will be no direct or indirect affects to (a) cultural resource sites; (b) endangered or threatened species or their habitats; (c) essential fish habitat; (d) environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, important farmlands, aquifer recharge zones; or (e) other resource areas identified in DEQ's guidance.

- The alternative selected by the South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sewer District for construction is cost-effective and has not caused significant public controversy.

Short-term impacts may occur during project construction that includes temporary disruption of the treatment 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, 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) and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribe, and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.
- Stormwater: Stormwater shall be avoided by having equipment available to put appropriate containment systems into service in a timely manner. Examples of containment systems include silt fences, temporary berms, and vegetative or mulch cover, and installing drains to control surface runoff and to minimize soil loss.
- 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.

Overall, completion of the proposed project will have long-term positive effects by improving wastewater treatment and ultimately water quality.

The documentation to support this decision is on file and available for public review 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:

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 Water Quality Division  
 1410 North Hilton  
 Boise, Idaho 83706  
 Grant/loan SERP contact: Ester Ceja  
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Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
 DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office  
 2110 Ironwood Parkway  
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814  
 Regional Office contact: Katy Baker-Casile  
 208-666-4640

South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sewer District  
1020 Polaris Avenue  
Osburn, Idaho 83849  
Contact: John Cuthbert, President  
208-753-8041

A one-time publication is required in the newspaper of greatest distribution. DEQ has requested the *Shoshone News-Press* publish the Cat Ex legal notice for the South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sewer District one time on January 7, 2015. The legal notice will inform the public that the proposed project has received a Cat Ex, which excludes the project from further environmental review.

The Cat Ex and published legal notice should be made part of the final planning document for this project.

TAW  FOR B.N.B.  
Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator