



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502  
www.deq.idaho.gov

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor  
John H. Tippetts, Director

July 22, 2016

The Honorable Sharon Hardy-Mills, Mayor  
City of Albion  
225 South Main Street  
Albion, Idaho 83311

RE: Draft finding of no significant impact for the City of Albion  
Wastewater Improvements WWG-344-2011-10

Dear Mayor Hardy-Mills:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the environmental information document for the City of Albion Wastewater Improvements. The potential impacts on a number of environmentally sensitive resources were evaluated in the environmental review. The City of Albion'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 *Times-News*, newspaper of record for the City of Albion. DEQ has requested the *Times-News* publish the legal notice one time, on one day, on Friday, July 29, 2016. 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.

Joe Otero at the DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office, (208) 737-3885, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project.

The Honorable Sharon Hardy-Mills, Mayor  
City of Albion  
July 22, 2016  
Page 2

Refer comments regarding the environmental review to Mike May in the State Office  
at (208) 373-0406 or [Michael.May@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Michael.May@deq.idaho.gov) .

Sincerely,



Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:MLM:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office (TRIM)  
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office (TRIM)  
Joe Otero, DEQ Twin Falls Regional Engineer (TRIM)  
Mark Holtzen, P.E., J-U-B Engineers, Inc. ([mholtzen@JUB.com](mailto:mholtzen@JUB.com))  
Mary Yeaman, Albion Clerk-Treasurer ([albioncty@atcnet.net](mailto:albioncty@atcnet.net))  
David Flesher, USDA Rural Development ([david.flesher@id.usda.gov](mailto:david.flesher@id.usda.gov))

## DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Date:** July 22, 2016  
**To:** All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals  
**Subject:** Environmental determination for the City of Albion Wastewater Improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and the “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04), 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:	City of Albion Wastewater Improvements
Location:	City of Albion, Cassia County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	WWG-344-2011-10
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$30,419

### PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

**Purpose of Project:** The purpose of the proposed project is to improve public health, regulatory compliance and environmental conditions by improving the condition and operation of the wastewater collection and treatment system.

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

- Cleaning and video inspection of the gravity sewer collection system;
- Replacement of an estimated 25% of existing gravity sewer mains;
- Cleaning existing 6-inch pressure main and replacement of air-vacuum valves;
- Reconstruction of existing 6-inch pressure mains and valves at the lagoons;
- Construction of a coarse screening structure and new 8-inch gravity main to lagoon inlets; and
- Replacement of 8-inch valves on lagoon outlet lines.

**Direct and Indirect Impacts:** An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by J-U-B Engineers, Inc. (JUB), consulting engineer for the City of Albion. JUB and DEQ consulted with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on consultation with agency experts, JUB and DEQ evaluated the potential short-term and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the wastewater 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 collection 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.
- Cultural Resources: A qualified archaeological monitor will observe all excavations. 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 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.
- Wetlands: Where possible, use borings, pipe bursting or cured-in-place pipe for crossings of Marsh Creek and Land Creek. If open trench pipe replacement proves necessary, conduct field wetland delineation assessment and obtain Section 404 permit from US Army Corps of Engineers if jurisdictional wetlands are involved.
- 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:

- Floodplain development permit from City of Albion for temporary encroachment;
- Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers (see above); 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 collection and treatment of wastewater and reducing the potential for discharge of untreated sewage to ground water or land surface.

**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 March 4, 2013 *City of Albion Wastewater Facilities Plan*, the July 13, 2016 *City of Albion Wastewater System Environmental Information Document* and supporting documentation.

**AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:**

Copies of the notice of a FONSI, the March 4, 2013 *City of Albion Wastewater Facilities Plan* and the July 13, 2016 *City of Albion Wastewater System Environmental Information Document* 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: Mike May (208) 373-0406

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Twin Falls Regional Office  
6150 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301  
Regional Office contact: Joe Otero (208) 737-3885

City of Albion  
225 South Main Street  
Albion, Idaho 83311  
Contact: Mayor Sharon Hardy-Mills (208) 673-5352

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Times-News*, one time in the Friday, July 29, 2016 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:

Mike May  
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 Monday, August 29, 2016. 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.

*Barry N. Burnell*

---

Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

## LEGAL NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Date:** July 22, 2015  
**To:** All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals  
**Subject:** Environmental determination for the City of Albion Wastewater Improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04), 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:

City of Albion Wastewater Improvements  
Cassia County  
Albion, 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 collection 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.
- **Cultural Resources:** A qualified archaeological monitor will observe all excavations. 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 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.
- **Wetlands:** Where possible, use borings, pipe bursting or cured-in-place pipe for crossings of Marsh Creek and Land Creek. If open trench pipe replacement proves necessary, conduct field wetland delineation assessment and obtain Section 404 permit from US Army Corps of Engineers if jurisdictional wetlands are involved.
- 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:

- Floodplain development permit from City of Albion for temporary encroachment;
- Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers (see above); 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 collection and treatment of wastewater and reducing the potential for discharge of untreated sewage to ground water or land surface.

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

- Cleaning and video inspection of the gravity sewer collection system;
- Replacement of an estimated 25% of existing gravity sewer mains;
- Cleaning existing 6-inch pressure main and replacement of air-vacuum valves;
- Reconstruction of existing 6-inch pressure mains and valves at the lagoons;
- Construction of a coarse screening structure and new 8-inch gravity main to lagoon inlets; and
- Replacement of 8-inch valves on lagoon outlet lines.

**Copies Available:** Copies of the full FONSI, the March 4, 2013 *City of Albion Wastewater Facilities Plan* and the July 13, 2016 *City of Albion Wastewater System Environmental Information Document* 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: Mike May (208) 373-0406

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Twin Falls Regional Office  
6150 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301  
Regional Office contact: Joe Otero (208) 737-3885

City of Albion  
225 South Main Street  
Albion, Idaho 83311  
Contact: Mayor Sharon Hardy-Mills (208) 673-5352

**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:

Mike May  
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 Monday, August 29, 2016. 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