September 16, 2011

Categorical Exclusion Determination for the City of Rigby Drinking Water Improvement Project

Jefferson County, Rigby, Idaho

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the September 2011 *Rigby, Idaho Environmental Information Document* in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under 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). DEQ has determined that this project does not involve any extraordinary circumstances which require additional environmental analysis and documentation and is therefore eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempt from further substantive environmental review requirements under the state environmental review procedures.

The proposed phase 1 drinking water project includes the following improvements.

- Installation of water meters on existing residential and businesses connections.
- Abandonment and relocation services on 4" line in lots of W. 1st. N. and the alley near Hwy 48.
- Replacement of the Dove Avenue distribution line.
- Replacement of additional distribution line to address fire flow deficiencies.
- Replacement of broken and substandard hydrants.

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

- The proposed facility improvements are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, and the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent 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 be expected to change the current system's population by greater than 500 estimated residential units (ERU's).

- 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 resources sites; (b) endangered or threatened species or their habitats; (c) environmentally important natural resource areas

such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands, aquifer recharge zones; or (d) other resource areas identified in DEQ's guidance.

Short term impacts may occur during project construction that includes temporary disruption of drinking water services, 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 DEQ Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho, IDAPA 58.01.01.651 (rule). The rule states that reasonable precautions for dust control and suppression include using water or chemicals, applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials. In addition to the rule requirements, it is recommended that a dust prevention and control plan be implemented during construction of the project that includes DEQ Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize dust pollution for fugitive dust control.

- 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.

- Cultural Resources: If archeological artifacts are inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe must be notified.

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

Overall, completion of the proposed project will have positive effects by promoting water conservation and addressing fire flow deficiencies.

The documentation to support this decision is on file and available for public review on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx> or at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
1410 N. Hilton Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
Grant/Loan NEPA Coordinator: Ester Ceja
208-373-0585

Department of Environmental Quality
Idaho Falls Regional Office

900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
Regional Staff Engineer Contact: Willie Teuscher
208-528-2666

City of Rigby
158 W. Fremont Avenue
Rigby, Idaho 83442
City Contact: Mayor Keith Smith
208-475-0812

To comply with 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), a one-time publication is required in the newspaper of record. DEQ has requested the *Jefferson Star* newspaper publish the Categorical Exclusion legal notice for the City of Rigby drinking water improvement project (1) time on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. The legal notice will inform the public that the proposed project has received a Categorical Exclusion which excludes the project from further environmental review.

The Categorical Exclusion and published notice should be made part of the final facility plan for this project.

Barry N. Burnell

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Water Quality Division Administrator