

October 3, 2011

**Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed
Oden Water Association Membrane Filter Plant Retrofit Project,
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the September 27, 2011 *James A. Sewell & Associates Oden Water Association Membrane Filter Plant Retrofit/Upgrade Request for Categorical Exclusion* in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under the Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program (IDAPA 58.01.20) and Chapter 5, of the *Drinking Water Loan Handbook*. 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 membrane filter plant retrofit project consists of modifying the existing double-skid membrane filtration plant plumbing, electrical and controls systems to accommodate installation of membrane modules that are produced by a different manufacturer. The proposed project also includes installation of a new third skid to improve treatment system redundancy and to reduce system interruptions during construction. Existing filter plant rack structures, plumbing, and filter cleaning facilities will be rehabilitated and addressed through control system modifications. Existing plumbing and filter modules that will be replaced will be properly salvaged or discarded. All the work will be contained within the existing membrane filter plant.

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 the replacement of functional equipment.
- 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 and be expected to change the current system's population by greater than 500 estimated residential units (ERUs).
- 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) environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands, aquifer recharge zones; or (d) other resource areas identified in DEQ's guidance.
- The alternative selected by the Oden Water Association 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. Overall, completion of the proposed project will have long term positive effects by improving water quality and water supply.

The documentation to support this decision is 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 North Hilton Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
Grant/Loan SERP Coordinator: Ester Ceja
208-373-0585

Department of Environmental Quality
Coeur d'Alene Regional Office
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
John Tindall
208-769-4629

To comply with the Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program (IDAPA 58.01.20), and Chapter 5 of the *Drinking Water Loan Handbook*, a one time publication is required in the local newspaper with community wide circulation. DEQ has requested the *Bonner County Dailey Bee* newspaper publish the Categorical Exclusion legal notice for the Oden Water Association membrane filter plant retrofit project one (1) time on Thursday, October 6, 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
Water Quality Division Administrator