

January 3, 2012

**Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed
Riverbend Estates Home Owners Association Drinking Water System Improvements
Bonner County, Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the October 27, 2011 *Riverbend Estates Environmental Information Document (EID)* 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 (CatEx). Accordingly, the project is exempt from further substantive environmental review requirements under the state environmental review procedures.

The proposed project includes both near term and long term improvements covered by this CatEx. The near term elements are: installation of well casing extensions, flushing hydrant, flow meter, backflow prevention devices, chlorinator and variable-frequency drives and controls for the well pumps. Long term elements are addition of a natural gas-powered generator for backup power and installation of point-of-use (POU) arsenic removal devices in each home in the event that arsenic concentrations increase above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). All excavation is expected to take place in previously disturbed ground, with the exception of a natural gas service line for the proposed generator.

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 the existing facilities and construction of new ancillary 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 equivalent 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 Riverbend Estates Home Owners 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 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 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.

- Cultural Resources: If archeological artifacts and human remains are discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe and the Burns Paiute Tribe shall be notified.
- 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.
- Waste disposal: Dispose of construction waste in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.06, Solid Waste.
- Noise impacts from the project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.
- Any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

The Riverbend Estates Home Owners Association or its contractors will also obtain any other local, state or federal permit required for activities taking place during project construction.

Overall, completion of the proposed project will have long term positive effects by improving drinking water quality and reliability.

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

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

Department of Environmental Quality Pocatello Regional Office
444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, Idaho 83201
Regional Office Contact: Craig Borrenpohl – (208) 236-5016

Riverbend Estates Home Owners Association
3134 Sage Street
American Falls, Idaho 83211
Contact: Sherri Timmons – (208) 226-9979

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 onetime publication is required in the local newspaper with community wide circulation. DEQ has requested the *Power County Press* newspaper to publish the Categorical Exclusion legal notice for the Riverbend Estates Home Owners Association drinking water system improvements one (1) time on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. 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