

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Date:** August 27, 2012

**To:** All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals

**Subject:** Environmental Determination for the Fernwood Water & Sewer District Drinking Water System Improvement Project

In accordance with the Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities (IDAPA 58.01.22) and the Rules for Administration of the Drinking Water Loan Program (IDAPA 58.01.20), an environmental review has been performed and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the project described below:

Project:	Fernwood Water & Sewer District Drinking Water System Improvement Project
Location:	Fernwood, Benewah County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	DWG 106-2010-5
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$15,000.00
DEQ Loan Number:	DW1212
Total Loan Project Cost:	\$676,300.00

### PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

**Purpose of Project:** The purpose of the proposed project is to protect water quality and public health and safety by addressing the deficiencies with respect to the Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water.

**Description of the Project:** The proposed project includes the purchase of a backup submersible well pump, Fin Creek reservoir repairs of the existing structure, replacement of the old service water meters, and replacement of the existing 1 inch waterline on Oak Street. In addition, the waterline replacement across the St. Maries River will be bored.

**Direct and Indirect Impacts:** An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by Welch, Comer & Associates, Inc. (Welch-Comer), consulting engineer for the District. Welch-Comer and DEQ consulted with a number of appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on the consultation with agency experts, Welch-Comer and DEQ evaluated the potential short and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed collection system improvements. The evaluation emphasized site-specific components of the environment that are most likely to be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed project. 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 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 inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Historic Preservation Officer shall be notified.
- **Stormwater:** Avoid stormwater runoff by a) 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 b) 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.
- Any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

The District will also obtain the following permits:

- A floodplain development permit from Benewah County.
- 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 by providing a reliable drinking water supply to the community.

**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 August 2012 *Environmental Information Document for Fernwood Water System*, the July 2012 *Preliminary Engineering Facility Plan for Fernwood Water System*, and supporting documentation.

#### **AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:**

Copies of the notice of a FONSI, August 2012 *Environmental Information Document for Fernwood Water System* the July 2012 *Preliminary Engineering Facility Plan for Fernwood Water System*, and supporting documentation upon which it is based are available for public review on the DEQ web site at [www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities) or at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality State Office  
 Division of Water Quality  
 1410 North Hilton  
 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  
Regional Office Contact: Katy Baker-Casile  
208-666-4640

Fernwood Water & Sewer District  
65290 Highway 3 South  
Fernwood, Idaho 83830  
Contact: Hank Lewis, Chairman  
208-245-3554

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Gazette Recorder* newspaper, one time in the Wednesday, September 5, 2012 publication.

**Public Comments:** Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision must be submitted on the DEQ web site <[www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities)> or addressed to:

Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Water Quality  
Grant and Loan Program  
1410 North Hilton Street  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
Attention: Ester Ceja, Grant/Loan SERP Coordinator

All comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before October 5, 2012. After an evaluation of public comment, DEQ will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days after publication of the draft FONSI Notice.



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Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator