



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

September 4, 2015

Honorable Michael D. Brown, Mayor
City of Rupert
P.O. Box 426
Rupert, Idaho 83350

RE: Final finding of no significant impact determination for the Rupert drinking water project

Dear Mayor Brown:

A draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on July 7, 2015 for the Rupert drinking water project, based on a careful review of the environmental information document prepared by Keller and Associates.

The draft FONSI was published on July 7, 2015 in the Twin Falls Times-News, newspaper of record for the City of Rupert. Two comments were received during the public comment period following publication (see attachments). The comments are not considered substantive; therefore, the record of decision for the Rupert drinking water project, a FONSI, is final.

This completes the environmental review of this project. Contact Brian Reed at the DEQ Twin Falls office, (208) 736-2190, if you have questions regarding the project. For questions regarding the environmental review contact Mike May at (208) 373-0406 or via e-mail at mike.may@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry N. Burnell".

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:TAW:dls

Attachments

c: Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office (if it is a grant)
MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office
Brian Reed and Twin Falls Regional Office
Roland Rocha, Keller and Associates, rocha@kellerassociates.com

**Response to Public Comments Received During the Public Comment Period for
the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Rupert Drinking Water
Improvements**

July 7, 2015 through August 30, 2015

Draft FONSI-Related Comments and Responses

COMMENT #1 TOPIC: AFFORDABILITY

Comment by Kevin Farnsworth (farnsluis@yahoo.com): “I would suggest that a 50% increase in one's water bill can have a significant impact on one's budget, particularly for those on a fixed income.”

Response: The comment does not accurately relate the impact of the proposed project.

COMMENT #2 TOPIC: NEED FOR PROJECT

Comment by David Wilson (dave.wilson@mccain.com): “As a resident of the city and the owner of rental property in the City of Rupert. I have experienced first hand the change in the quality of the potable water supply. Sulfur odor from hot water taps has been frequent complaint by my renters over the past few years. When Water heaters are replaced the annodes need to be removed or replaced with expensive units which do not combine with the minerals to create the odor. My wife will only drink bottled water.

I concur with the need for a system upgrade.”

Response: No response needed.