



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 28, 2015

Mark E. Christensen, President  
Smith Road Water Users Association  
11421 W 2 ½ Mile Road  
Pocatello, Idaho 83202

RE: Categorical exclusion for the Smith Road Water Users Association Drinking Water Improvements (DWG-151-2015-1)

Dear Mr. Christensen:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the facility plan for the Smith Road Water Users Association Drinking Water Improvements and has issued a categorical exclusion (Cat Ex) determination. A Cat Ex exempts the referenced project from further substantive environmental review requirements because no environmental effects were found. Enclosed is a signed copy of the Cat Ex for the referenced project.

DEQ has requested that the *Idaho State Journal*, newspaper of general circulation for the association, publish the enclosed Cat Ex legal notice for the referenced project one time on Friday, October 9, 2015. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain copies of the full Cat Ex.

The Smith Road Water Users Association should keep a copy of the Cat Ex and the legal notice as published for their records. No required public comment or waiting period is required after notification of a Cat Ex. Following publication of the legal notice, you may proceed with closure of the DEQ planning grant.

Andrew Fellows at the DEQ Pocatello regional office, (208) 286-6160, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Barry N. Burnell, with the initials "FOR BNB" written below it.

Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:MLM:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office (TRIM)  
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office (TRIM)  
Andrew Fellows, DEQ Pocatello Office (TRIM)  
Bryan R. Phinney, P.E., Keller Associates ([bphinney@kellerassociates.com](mailto:bphinney@kellerassociates.com))  
Oksana Roth, P.E., Keller Associates ([oroth@Kellerassociates.com](mailto:oroth@Kellerassociates.com))

September 28, 2015

**Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed  
Smith Road Water Users Association Drinking Water Improvements,  
Bonneville County, Pocatello, Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the May 2015 *Smith Road Water Users Association Amendment to Facility Planning Study* in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities” (IDAPA 58.01.22), and “Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program” (IDAPA 58.01.20). DEQ has determined that this project does not involve any extraordinary circumstances requiring additional environmental analysis and documentation and is therefore eligible for a categorical exclusion (Cat Ex). Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under the SERP.

**Project Description:**

- Install a replacement for Well #1 on the existing lot and decommission the existing Well #1 according to Idaho Department of Water Resources rules;
- Rebuild the well house and replace booster pumps and tanks with bladder tanks;
- Install chlorine disinfection;
- Replace the pump in Well #2;
- Replace the water main on Smith Road; and
- Install flushing hydrants at each end of the water main.

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

- The proposed facility improvements are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities, with a replacement well to be installed on the existing well lot.
- 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 estimated residential units.
- 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) essential fish habitat; (d) environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, important farmlands, aquifer recharge zones; or (e) other resource areas identified in DEQ’s guidance.
- The alternative selected by the Smith Road Water Users 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 “Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho” (IDAPA 58.01.01.651). IDAPA 58.01.01.651 states that reasonable precautions shall be taken for dust control

and suppression by using water or chemicals, applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials. In addition to the rule requirements, DEQ recommends that a dust prevention and control plan be implemented during construction of the project that includes best management practices (BMPs) to minimize dust pollution for fugitive dust control. Emergency generators must comply with Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

- Cultural Resources: If archeological artifacts (such as beads, arrow heads, pottery, fabric, grave goods, glass, metal fragments, or other human-made objects that appear to predate 1960) or human remains (such as bones, bone fragments, or teeth) are inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO), Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribe(s), and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.
- 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.
- Noise impacts from the project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.
- Implement any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

Overall, completion of the proposed project will have long-term positive effects to public health through the provision of safe drinking water.

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

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Division  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
Grant/loan SERP contact: Mike May (208) 373-0406

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Pocatello Regional Office  
444 Hospital Way #300  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201  
Regional Office contact: Andrew Fellows (208) 286-6160

A one-time publication is required in the newspaper of general circulation. DEQ has requested the *Idaho State Journal* publish the Cat Ex legal notice for Smith Road Water Users Association Drinking Water Improvements one time on October 9, 2015. The legal notice will inform the public that the proposed project has received a Cat Ex, which excludes the project from further environmental review.

The Cat Ex and published legal notice should be made part of the final planning document for this project.

 FOR BOB  
Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR THE  
SMITH ROAD WATER USERS ASSOCIATION DRINKING WATER IMPROVEMENTS

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the proposed drinking water improvements for the Smith Road Water Users Association, Bonneville County, Idaho, conforms to the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities” (IDAPA 58.01.22), and “Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program” (IDAPA 58.01.20), by which the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under the SERP.

Project Description:

- Install a replacement for Well #1 on the existing lot and decommission the existing Well #1 according to Idaho Department of Water Resources rules;
- Rebuild the well house and replace booster pumps and tanks with bladder tanks;
- Install chlorine disinfection;
- Replace the pump in Well #2;
- Replace the water main on Smith Road; and
- Install flushing hydrants at each end of the water main.

Copies of the notice of categorical exclusion and the environmental information document upon which it is based are available for public review on DEQ’s website at [www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx) or at the following locations:

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