



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

February 10, 2016

The Honorable Ike Funkhouser, Mayor
City of Challis
P.O. Box 587
Challis, Idaho 83226

RE: Draft finding of no significant impact for the Challis Drinking Water Improvements

Dear Mayor Luper:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the environmental information document for the Challis Drinking Water Improvements. The potential impacts on a number of environmentally sensitive resources were evaluated in the environmental review. Riedesel Engineering and DEQ consulted with a number of appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant issues. The project meets state and federal criteria for issuance of a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) since the environmental review process indicated no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project.

A FONSI legal notice will be published in the *Challis Messenger*, newspaper of record for the City of Challis. DEQ has requested the *Challis Messenger* publish the legal notice one time, on one day, on February 18, 2016. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain a copy of the full FONSI for review and will give instructions on how they can submit comments. A 30-day public comment period will follow the FONSI legal notice publication. If public comments and concerns arise related to the project or FONSI, DEQ may ask your help in preparing responses.

Following the 30-day public comment period, any significant comments or concerns will be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the final FONSI determination for the referenced project. After issuance of the final FONSI, and with approval of all technical considerations in the planning document, the FONSI will be considered valid for five years for the scope of work described therein.

William Teuscher at the DEQ Idaho Falls regional office, (208) 528-2666, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project.

City of Challis
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Refer comments regarding the environmental review to Mike May in the State Office at
208) 373-0406 or Michael.May@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:MLM:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office (TRIM)
William Teuscher, P.E., DEQ Idaho Falls (TRIM)
Andrew Kimmel, Riedesel Engineering (AKimmel@Riedeseleng.com)
Corey Rice, Challis Public Works Supervisor (crcityshop@custertel.net)
Kellie Wahlstrom, Challis City Clerk (cityclerk@custertel.net)
Mike Barrett, Challis City Councilman (tesmec@hotmail.com)
Rick Miller, The Development Company (rick.miller@ecipda.net)
Dennis J. Porter, Idaho Department of Commerce (Dennis.Porter@commerce.idaho.gov)
David Flesher, USDA Rural Utilities Service (david.flesher@id.usda.gov)

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: February 10, 2016
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental determination for the Challis Drinking Water Improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and “Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program” (IDAPA 58.01.20), an environmental review has been performed and a draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is hereby issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Project:	Challis Drinking Water Improvements
Location:	Challis, Custer County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	none
DEQ Loan Number::	to be determined
Total Project Cost:	\$3,036,960

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to enhance public health by reducing dependence on a surface water source for drinking water and making other improvements.

Description of the Project: The environmental analysis includes the following project features:

- Replacement of approximately 13,000 linear feet of water mains and installation of 52 new fire hydrants and 2 pressure-reducing valves in existing roadways in the “Old Town” section of Challis;
- Installation of approximately 6,000 linear feet of new 8-inch water mains, approximately 1,950 linear feet of new 6-inch water main, 32 new fire hydrants and associated fitting within existing roadways to extend service to the airport;
- Replacement of 760 water meters and ancillary equipment;
- Construction of an 8-inch Garden Creek crossing at or near the Highway 93 bridge; and
- Installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) telemetry system for monitoring and control of the drinking water system.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by Riedesel Engineering (Riedesel), consulting engineer for the City of Challis. Riedesel and DEQ consulted with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on consultation with agency experts, Riedesel and DEQ evaluated the potential short-term and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the drinking water project. The evaluation emphasized site-specific components of the environment that are most likely to be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed improvements. 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 will be 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.
- **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), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribes, and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.

Ground disturbance near the Challis Brewery Historic District should be confined to underneath Challis Creek Road or on the eastern side of the road. If project design requires excavation on the western side of the (unpaved) road, SHPO should be consulted during design.

- **Stormwater:** Stormwater runoff shall be handled through an Environmental Protection Agency Stormwater Construction General permit and the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP and stormwater BMPs will be implemented prior to, during, and after project construction to reduce the potential for erosion from runoff.
- **Surface Waters and Wetlands:** All construction within 300 feet of Garden Creek, including any stream crossings utilizing by horizontal directional drilling, must follow the conditions given in the January 2016 *Supplement to City of Challis, Idaho Revised Environmental Information Document*.
- **Floodplains.** Replacement of fire hydrants and mains on parts of North Avenue and part of Main Street between Second and Third Streets will involve a temporary incursion onto the 100-year flood plain. Replacement of those mains and hydrants will not affect the base flood elevation, but will require a permit (see below).
- 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.

The following permits will be required for this project:

- Flood plain development permit from the City of Challis
- 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 through improved public health and reduced draw-down of water from bull trout and chinook salmon habitat in Garden Creek.

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 October 13, 2014 *City of Challis Revised Environmental Information Document* and its January 2016 supplement, and the August 23, 2012 *City of Challis Facility Plan*.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

Copies of the notice of a FONSI, the October 13, 2014 *City of Challis Environmental Information Document*, its January 2016 supplement, and the August 23, 2012 *City of Challis Facility Plan* are available for public review on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities 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
Idaho Falls Regional Office
900 North Skyline Drive, Suite B
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
Regional Office contact: William Teuscher – (208) 528-2666

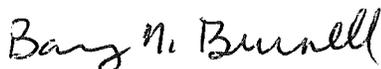
City of Challis
721 Main Street
Challis, Idaho 83226
Contact: Kellie Wahlstrom, City Clerk – (208) 879-2386

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Challis Messenger*, one time in the February 18, 2016 publication.

Public Comments: Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision must be submitted on DEQ's website www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities or addressed to the following contact:

Mike May
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division, Grant and Loan Program
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

All comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before March 21, 2016. After an evaluation of public comment, DEQ will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after publication of the draft FONSI notice.



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: February 10, 2016
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental determination for the Challis Drinking Water Improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and the “Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program” (IDAPA 58.01.20), an environmental review has been performed and a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the following project:

Challis Drinking Water Improvements
Custer County
Challis, Idaho

This environmental determination was made as a result of the review process indicating no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project. There may be several 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 will be 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.
- **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), the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribes, and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.

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- **Surface Waters and Wetlands:** All construction within 300 feet of Garden Creek, including any stream crossings utilizing by horizontal directional drilling, must follow the conditions given in the January 2016 *Supplement to City of Challis, Idaho Revised Environmental Information Document*.

- **Floodplains.** Replacement of fire hydrants and mains on parts of North Avenue and part of Main Street between Second and Third Streets will involve a temporary incursion onto the 100-year flood plain. Replacement of those mains and hydrants will not affect the base flood elevation, but will require a permit (see below).
- 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.

The following permits will be required for this project:

- Flood plain development permit from the City of Challis
- 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 through improved public health and reduced draw-down of water from bull trout and chinook salmon habitat in Garden Creek.

Description of the Project: The environmental analysis includes the following project features:

- Replacement of approximately 13,000 linear feet of water mains and installation of 52 new fire hydrants and 2 pressure-reducing valves in existing roadways in the “Old Town” section of Challis;
- Installation of approximately 6,000 linear feet of new 8-inch water mains, approximately 1,950 linear feet of new 6-inch water main, 32 new fire hydrants and associated fitting within existing roadways to extend service to the airport;
- Replacement of 760 water meters and ancillary equipment;
- Construction of an 8-inch Garden Creek crossing at or near the Highway 93 bridge; and
- Installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) telemetry system for monitoring and control of the drinking water system.

Copies Available: Copies of the full FONSI, the October 13, 2014 *City of Challis Environmental Information Document*, its January 2016 supplement, and the August 23, 2012 *City of Challis Facility Plan* are available for public review on DEQ’s website at www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities 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
 Idaho Falls Regional Office
 900 North Skyline Drive, Suite B
 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
 Regional Office contact: William Teuscher – (208) 528-2666

City of Challis
 721 Main Street
 Challis, Idaho 83226
 Contact: Kellie Wahlstrom, City Clerk – (208) 879-2386

Public Comments: Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision must be submitted on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities or addressed to the following contact:

Mike May
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division, Loan Program
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

Such comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before March 21, 2016. Public comments will be considered in finalizing the planning phase of the project. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date of publication.

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator