



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

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Rick Dunn
Mayor of the City of Filer
P.O. Box 140
Filer, Idaho 83328

Subject: Draft finding of no significant impact for the City of Filer water system upgrades
(Drinking Water Grant No. DWG-119-2011-12)

Dear Mayor Dunn:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the environmental information document for the City of Filer's (City's) water system upgrades. The potential impacts on a number of environmentally sensitive resources were evaluated in the environmental review. The City's project engineer 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 *Times-News*, newspaper of record for the City. DEQ has requested the *Times-News* publish the legal notice one time, on one day, on Wednesday, March 23rd. 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, DEQ will close the DEQ planning grant.

Brian Reed at the DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office, (208) 736-2190, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep her informed of progress on the project.

The Honorable Rick Dunn
Mayor of the City of Filer
March 18, 2016
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Refer comments regarding the environmental review to Michael Stambulis in the State Office at (208) 373-0123 or via michael.stambulis@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:MS:dls

Enclosures

C: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office
Brian Reed, Twin Falls Regional Office
Gary Vance, J-U-B Engineers, Inc. (gvance@jub.com)

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: March 18, 2016
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental determination for the City of Filer water system improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), 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), 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:	City of Filer Water System Improvements
Location:	Filer, Twin Falls County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	DWG-119-2011-12
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$32,720
Total Project Cost:	\$5,730,000

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The City of Filer’s (City’s) historical water sampling data indicates that several of the City’s existing supply wells have arsenic concentrations greater than the maximum contaminant level. DEQ requested the City begin implementation of a long-term solution for the arsenic issue. The proposed project establishes a long-term solution to consistently and reliably serve water which meets the arsenic MCL. The project as addresses other water system needs to improve system reliability for a 20-year planning period.

Description of the Project: The proposed project consists of the following list of improvements:

- Construction of an arsenic removal water treatment plant using enhanced coagulation with sand pressure filtration
- Installation of a variable frequency drive (VFD) in an existing pump station
- Installation of approximately 1,500 of water main with a pressure reducing valve (PRV)
- Creation of a new pressure zone in the southern part of the city
- Install a permanent backup generator at the site of well nos. 3/7

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by J-U-B Engineers, Inc. (J-U-B), consulting engineer for the City. J-U-B and DEQ consulted with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based

on consultation with agency experts, J-U-B and DEQ evaluated the potential short-term and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the water system improvements 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 and long-term impacts may occur during project construction including 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 and environmental impacts including, but not limited to, the following list:

- 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.
- 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.
- The project contractor will implement any other appropriate BMPs wherever possible to avoid or minimize impacts from construction activities.

It is not anticipated that project-specific permits will be required. The City and the project contractor will be required to obtain any 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 to public health and the City’s water system. The proposed project will allow the City to serve water to the public which consistently and reliably meets the maximum contaminant level for arsenic. The project will create an additional pressure zone in the southern portion of the city. This pressure zone will ensure system pressures are adequate to protect the distribution system and public health from issues associated with low pressure or depressurization. The proposed backup generator will improve system reliability and prevent pressure loss in the event of a prolonged power outage.

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 November 2014 *City of Filer – Water System Facilities Plan*, the February 2016 *City of Filer – Water System Environmental Information Document*, and supporting documentation.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

Copies of the full FONSI, the November 2014 *City of Filer – Water System Facilities Plan*, the February 2016 *City of Filer – Water System Environmental Information Document*, and supporting documentation upon which it is based 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: Michael Stambulis
(208) 373-0123
Toll-free: (888) 800-3480

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Twin Falls Regional Office
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
Regional Office contact: Brian Reed
(208) 736-2190
Toll-free: (800) 270-1663

City of Filer
P.O. Box 140
Filer, Idaho 83328
Contact: The Honorable Rick Dunn
Mayor of the City of Filer
(208) 326-5000

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Times-News*, one time in the March 23, 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:

Michael Stambulis
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 April 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: March 18, 2016

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

Subject: Environmental determination for the City of Filer water system improvements
(Drinking Water Grant No. DWG-119-2011-12)

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), 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), 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:

City of Filer
Twin Falls County
Filer, 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 and long-term impacts may occur during project construction including 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 and environmental impacts including, but not limited to, the following list:

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- Noise impacts from the project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.
- The project contractor will implement any other appropriate BMPs wherever possible to avoid or minimize impacts from construction activities.

It is not anticipated that project-specific permits will be required. The City of Filer and the project contractor will be required to obtain any 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 to public health and the City of Filer's water system. The proposed project will allow the City of Filer to serve water to the public which consistently and reliably meets the maximum contaminant level for arsenic. The project will create an additional pressure zone in the southern portion of the city. This pressure zone will ensure system pressures are adequate to protect the distribution system and public health from issues associated with low pressure or depressurization. The proposed backup generator will improve system reliability and prevent pressure loss in the event of a prolonged power outage.

Description of the Project: The proposed project consists of the following list of improvements:

- Construction of an arsenic removal water treatment plant using enhanced coagulation with sand pressure filtration
- Installation of a variable frequency drive (VFD) in an existing pump station
- Installation of approximately 1,500 of water main with a pressure reducing valve (PRV)
- Creation of a new pressure zone in the southern part of the city
- Install a permanent backup generator at the site of well nos. 3/7

Copies Available: Copies of the full FONSI, the November 2014 *City of Filer – Water System Facilities Plan*, the February 2016 *City of Filer – Water System Environmental Information Document*, and supporting documentation upon which it is based are available for public review on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities or at the following locations:

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City of Filer
P.O. Box 140
Filer, Idaho 83328
Contact: The Honorable Rick Dunn
Mayor of the City of Filer
(208) 326-5000

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:

Michael Stambulis
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 April 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