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. Tippets, Director

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Jim Martin
Mayor of Priest River
P.O. Box 415
Priest River, Idaho 83856

RE: Categorical exclusion for the City of Priest River Wastewater Utility Improvements WWG-372-2015-2

Dear Mayor Martin:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the environmental information document for the City of Priest River Wastewater Utility 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 *Priest River Times,* newspaper of record for the City of Priest River, publish the enclosed Cat Ex legal notice for the referenced project one time on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain copies of the full Cat Ex.

The City of Priest River 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 the closure of the DEQ planning grant. Katy Baker-Casile at the DEQ Coeur d'Alene Office, (208) 666-4640, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep her informed of progress on the project.

Sincerely,

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:ahh:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office maryanna.peavey@deq.idaho.gov
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office Charlie.parkins@deq.idaho.gov
Katy Baker-Casile, DEQ CRO katy.baker-casile@deq.idaho.gov
Keri Hill, Mountain Waterworks khill@mountainwtr.com
Noel LaRoque, USDA Rural Development noel.laroque@id.usda.gov

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LEGAL NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR THE CITY OF PRIEST RIVER WASTEWATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the proposed wastewater improvement project for the City of Priest River, Bonner County, Idaho, conforms to the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), "Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants" (IDAPA 58.01.04) by which the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements.

The project consists of a series of improvements that will upgrade their wastewater system to provide safe, reliable sewer services to residents and businesses within the City of Priest River. Project work will occur within existing right-of-ways and will include the following:

- Collection system repairs and replacement
- Existing lift station repair
- James Street lift station relocation
- Lift station backup power
- New service connections
- Treatment facility upgrades

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 or at the following locations:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706
Grant/loan SERP contact: Aimee Hill 208-373-0556

Idaho 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

City of Priest River
P.O. Box 415
Priest River, Idaho 83856
Contact: Mayor Jim Martin 208-448-2123

March 14, 2016

Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed

City of Priest River Wastewater Utility Improvements, Bonner County, Priest River, Idaho

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the March 2016 City of Priest River Wastewater Utility Environmental Review and the August 2015 Wastewater Facility Plan in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), "Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants" (IDAPA 58.01.04). 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). This Cat Ex applies to all phases identified in the Environmental Review listed below. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under the SERP.

The project consists of a series of improvements that will upgrade their wastewater system to provide safe, reliable sewer services to residents and businesses within the City of Priest River. Project work will occur within existing right-of-ways and will include the following:

- Collection system repairs and replacement
- Existing lift station repair
- James Street lift station relocation
- Lift station backup power
- New service connections
- Treatment facility upgrades

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.
- 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 City of Priest River 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 collection and treatment 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.

- 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), Kalispel Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho 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.

- 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.

- 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 by improving wastewater treatment and addressing the City of Priest River's NPDES permit issues. The proposed project will protect water quality and public health.

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 or at the following locations:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
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1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706
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Coeur d'Alene Regional Office
2110 Ironwood Parkway
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Regional Office contact: Katy Baker-Casile 208-666-4640

City of Priest River
P.O. Box 415
Priest River, Idaho 83856
Contact: Mayor Jim Martin 208-448-2123

A one-time publication is required in the newspaper of record. DEQ has requested the *Priest River Times* publish the Cat Ex legal notice for City of Priest River Wastewater Utility Improvements one time on *March 23, 2016.* 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.

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator