



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor  
Curt Fransen, Director

September 16, 2013

Gordon Hamilton, Chairman  
Meridian Heights Water & Sewer District  
P.O. Box 472  
Meridian, Idaho 83680

RE: Environmental Determination for the Meridian Heights Water & Sewer District Drinking Water Improvement Project (DWG 134-2013-1)

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the Environmental Information Document for the Meridian Heights Water & Sewer District (District) drinking water improvement project 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 please find a signed copy of the Categorical Exclusion for the referenced project.

DEQ has requested that the *Idaho Statesman*, newspaper of greatest distribution for the District publish the enclosed Legal Notice of a Categorical Exclusion (legal notice) for the referenced project one (1) time on Friday, September 20, 2013. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain copies of the full Cat Ex.

The District should keep a copy of the Cat Ex and the legal notice as published for their records. There is no required public comment or waiting period after notification of a Cat Ex. Following publication of the legal notice you may proceed with the closure of the DEQ planning grant and move forward with the State Revolving Fund loan.

Kevin Ryan, DEQ Boise Regional Office, 208-373-0184, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project.

Sincerely,

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

Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:EC:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office  
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office  
Kevin Ryan, DEQ Boise Regional Office  
Ryan V. Morgan, Centra Consulting, Inc. (rmorgan@centrainc.com)

September 16, 2013

**Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed  
Meridian Heights Water & Sewer District Drinking Water Improvement Project,  
Ada County, Meridian, Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the August 20, 2013 *Meridian Heights Water & Sewer District Categorical Exclusion for Water Facility Plan* in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under the State Environmental Review Process, 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). DEQ has determined that this project does not involve any extraordinary circumstances which require additional environmental analysis and documentation and is therefore eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under the state environmental review procedures.

The proposed project entails replacement of 1600 lineal feet of water main located within the right of way on West Bloomington Drive, South McGuire Street, and South Carbondale Street, all located within the subdivision boundaries.

DEQ has determined that this project is consistent with criteria for issuing a Categorical Exclusion 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 be expected to change the current system's population by greater than 500 estimated residential units (ERUs).
- 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) environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands, aquifer recharge zones; or (d) other resource areas identified in DEQ's guidance.
- The alternative selected by the Meridian Heights Water & Sewer District 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 DEQ Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho, IDAPA 58.01.01.651 (rule). The rule states that reasonable precautions for dust control and suppression include using water or chemicals, applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials. In addition to the rule requirements, it is recommended that a dust prevention and control plan be

implemented during construction of the project that includes DEQ 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, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, and the Burns-Paiute General Council 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. If human remains are discovered the Ada County Sheriff's Office and the Ada County Coroner will be contacted and work will not resume until law enforcement has also released the site.
- **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.
- 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 providing a reliable and safe conveyance of drinking water.

The documentation to support this decision is on file and available for public review on the DEQ web site 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:

Department of Environmental Quality State Office  
Division of Water Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
Grant/Loan SERP Contact: Ester Ceja, 208-373-0585

Department of Environmental Quality Boise Regional Office  
1445 N. Orchard Street  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
Regional Office Contact: Kevin Ryan, 208-373-0184

To comply with 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), a one time publication is required in the newspaper of greatest distribution. DEQ has requested the *Idaho Statesman* publish the Categorical Exclusion legal notice for the Meridian Heights Water & Sewer District Drinking Water Improvement Project one (1) time on Thursday, September 19, 2013. The legal notice will inform the public that the proposed project has received a Categorical Exclusion which excludes the project from further environmental review.

The Categorical Exclusion and published notice should be made part of the final facility plan for this project.



Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator

**LEGAL NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR THE MERIDIAN HEIGHTS  
WATER & SEWER DISTRICT DRINKING WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the proposed drinking water improvement project for the Meridian Heights Water & Sewer District, Ada County, Idaho conforms to the State Environmental Review Process, 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) by which the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements.

The proposed project entails replacement of 1600 lineal feet of water main located within the right of way on West Bloomington Drive, South McGuire Street, and South Carbondale Street, all located within the subdivision boundaries.

Copies of the notice of Categorical Exclusion and the environmental information document upon which it is based are available for public review on the DEQ web site 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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C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor  
Curt Fransen, Director

September 16, 2013

*The Idaho Statesman*  
legals@idahostatesman.com

RE: Legal Notice Publication: Notification of a Categorical Exclusion for the Meridian Heights Water & Sewer District Drinking Water Improvement Project

Dear Idaho Statesman:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality requests the enclosed legal notice be published in your newspaper. This request is to satisfy the state rule requirement that the notice of an environmental determination be given in advance of the intended action. To comply with the aforementioned legal requirements and the dates contained in the legal notice, we hereby request the legal notice be published one time, on one day, on Friday, September 20, 2013.

Please compress the legal notice by eliminating any unnecessary lines and spaces. A formatted legal notice is attached for your convenience. If you are unable to publish on the requested date, please call for further instructions.

Following publication, please send: one (1) affidavit; one (1) proof of publication; and the billing invoice to:

Dawn Shepherd  
Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706

Failure to send the billing invoice to the address and contact person identified above could result in a delay in the processing of your invoice.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please call Ester Ceja at 208-373-0585 if you have any questions.

MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ Loan Program Coordinator

Enclosure: Formatted Legal Notice