



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

April 18, 2017

Doug Murdock, President
Country Haven Utility Association
43 S. 1190 W.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

RE: Categorical exclusion for the Country Haven Utility Association Wastewater
Facility Improvements (WWG-380-2016-2)

Dear Mr. Murdock:

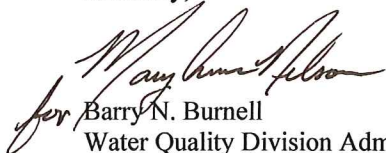
The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed an environmental review of the Country Haven Utility Association Wastewater Facility Improvements and has issued a categorical exclusion (Cat Ex) determination. Issuance of a Cat Ex or omission of any regulatory requirement from environmental review does not absolve the applicant from meeting all applicable regulations. 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 *Morning News*, newspaper of record for the association, publish the enclosed Cat Ex legal notice for the referenced project one time on April 21, 2017. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain copies of the full Cat Ex.

The 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 the closure of the DEQ planning grant and continue on with the State Revolving Fund loan.

Andrew Fellows at DEQ Pocatello Regional Office, (208) 239-5016, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project.

Sincerely,


for 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
Andrew Fellows, DEQ Pocatello andrew.fellows@deq.idaho.gov
Riley Bradshaw, Keller Associates rbradshaw@kellerassociates.com
Dave Flesher, USDA RD david.flesher@id.usda.gov
Noel LaRoque, USDA RD noel.laroque@id.usda.gov

April 18, 2017

**Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed
Country Haven Utility Association Wastewater Facility Improvements
Bingham County, Rockford, Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the *February 2017 Country Haven Wastewater Facilities Planning Study* 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), and “Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans” (IDAPA 58.01.12). 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. Issuance of a Cat Ex or omission of any regulatory requirement from environmental review does not absolve the applicant from meeting all applicable regulations.

The project consists of expanding the system’s current evaporation-only lagoon system. This would present little change in operational requirements for the association. The only maintenance associated with this option would be continued observation, weed control and upkeep of the embankments, leak testing every ten years, and replacement of the lagoon liners at a 50-year assumed life. The project may involve a pump system which would require occasional maintenance but would remain a simple system to operate.

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.
- The alternative selected by the 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 collection and treatment systems, 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) and the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribe, and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.
- 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.
- 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 repairing and improving the wastewater treatment system and addressing compliance issues at Country Haven. The proposed project will protect water quality and public health.

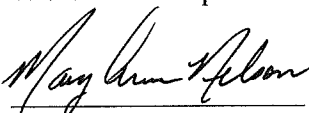
The documentation to support this decision is on file at the following locations:

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
 Pocatello Regional Office
 444 Hospital Way #300
 Pocatello, Idaho 83201
 Regional Office contact: Andrew Fellows, (208) 239-5016

A one-time publication is required in the newspaper of record. DEQ has requested the *Morning News* publish the Cat Ex legal notice for the Country Haven Utility Association Wastewater Facility Improvement Project one time on *April 21, 2017*. 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 Barry N. Burnell
 Water Quality Division Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR THE
COUNTRY HAVEN UTILITY ASSOCIATION WASTEWATER FACILITY
IMPROVEMENTS

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the proposed wastewater improvement project for the Country Haven Utility Association in Rockford, Bingham County, Idaho, conforms to the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04), and “Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans” (IDAPA 58.01.12), and environmental review criteria, by which the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion (Cat Ex). Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements. Issuance of a Cat Ex or omission of any regulatory requirement from environmental review does not absolve the applicant from meeting all applicable regulations.

The project consists of expanding the system’s current evaporation-only lagoon system. This would present little change in operational requirements for the association. The only maintenance associated with this option would be continued observation, weed control and upkeep of the embankments, leak testing every ten years, and replacement of the lagoon liners at a 50-year assumed life. The project may involve a pump system which would require occasional maintenance but would remain a simple system to operate.

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