

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Date:** November 20, 2012  
**To:** All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals  
**Subject:** Environmental Determination for the Weiser Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

In accordance with the Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans (IDAPA 58.01.12), an environmental review has been performed and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the project described below:

Project:	Weiser Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
Location:	City of Weiser, Washington County, Idaho
DEQ Loan Number:	TBD
Total Project Cost:	\$9,776,000

### **PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:**

**Purpose of Project:** The purpose of the proposed project is to improve effluent quality to meet new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements and extend the life of the treatment plant by upgrading or repairing aged equipment.

**Description of the Project:** The scope of the proposed project includes:

- Construction of a headworks building to enclose existing screens;
- Rehabilitation of aeration blower tanks;
- Installation of new aeration system and improved diffusion equipment;
- Installation of on-site chlorine generation and dechlorination equipment;
- Installation of chemical dosing equipment for phosphorus removal;
- Installation of SCADA improvements;
- Rehabilitation of the dissolved air flotation thickener (DAFT);
- Construction of a new up-flow sand filter for additional phosphorus removal; and
- Rehabilitation of digester #3.

Project activities are expected to be contained within the existing wastewater treatment plant boundaries, and will require minimal excavation, all in previously disturbed areas.

**Direct and Indirect Impacts:** No direct, long term, cumulative or indirect effects on sensitive environmental features are anticipated from construction of the proposed project. Overall completion of the project will have long-term positive effects through reduction of pollutant discharge to the Snake River.

Short term impacts may occur during project construction that include temporary disruption of the treatment system, increased noise, increased dust pollution and increased potential for stormwater runoff. 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 and human remains are inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and Burns-Paiute General Council shall be notified.
- **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, 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.
- Any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

The City of Weiser will also obtain 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 reduction of pollutant discharges to the Snake River.

**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 July 2011 *Wastewater Treatment Plant & Main Lift Station Facilities Planning Study*, the November 2012 *City of Weiser Wastewater Improvements Project Environmental Information Document* and supporting documentation.

**AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:**

Copies of the notice of a FONSI, the July 2011 *Wastewater Treatment Plant & Main Lift Station Facilities Planning Study*, the November 2012 *City of Weiser Wastewater Improvements Project Environmental Information Document* and supporting documentation upon which it is based are available for public review on the DEQ web site at [www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities) 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: Mike May (208) 373-0406

Department of Environmental Quality Boise Regional Office  
1445 North Orchard Street  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
Regional Office Contact: Kevin Ryan, Engineer – (208) 373-0184

City of Weiser  
55 West Idaho  
Weiser, Idaho 83672  
Contact: Nate Marvin, Public Works Director – (208) 414-1965

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Weiser Signal-American*, one time in the Wednesday, November 28, 2012 publication.

**Public Comments:** Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision must be submitted on the DEQ web site [www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities) or addressed to:

Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Water Quality  
Grant and Loan Program  
1410 North Hilton Street  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
Attention: Mike May, Grant/Loan SERP Staff

All comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before Monday, December 31, 2012. After an evaluation of public comment, DEQ will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days after publication of the draft FONSI Notice.



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Barry N. Burnell  
Water Quality Division Administrator