



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

February 9, 2016

Stacey Buckingham, President
Bruneau Water and Sewer District
P.O. Box 194
Bruneau, Idaho 83604

RE: Draft finding of no significant impact for the Bruneau Wastewater
Improvements - WWG 354-2012-10

Dear Ms. Buckingham:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the environmental information document for the Bruneau Wastewater Improvements project. The potential impacts on a number of environmentally sensitive resources were evaluated in the environmental review. The Bruneau Water and Sewer District'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 *Owyhee Avalanche*, newspaper of record for Owyhee County. DEQ has requested the *Owyhee Avalanche* publish the legal notice one time, on one day, on February 17, 2016. 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.

Kevin Ryan at 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.

Stacey Buckingham, President
Bruneau Water and Sewer District
February 9, 2015
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Refer comments regarding the environmental review to Mike May in the State Office at (208) 373-0406 or via Michael.may@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:ahh:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office (TRIM)
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office (TRIM)
Kevin Ryan, DEQ BRO (TRIM)
Robert Hegstrom, J-U-B (reh@jub.com)
Kent Erickson, P.E., USDA (kent.Erickson@id.usda.gov)
Carol Garrison, USDA (Carol.Garrison@id.usda.gov)

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: February 9, 2016
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental determination for the Bruneau Wastewater Improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), the “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04), 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:	Bruneau Wastewater Improvements
Location:	Bruneau Water and Sewer District, Owyhee County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	WWG-329-2009-5
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$19,077.00

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to improve public health and the environment by repairing existing wastewater treatment facilities, providing additional wastewater treatment capacity, improving the efficiency of the wastewater land application, and separately treating drinking water treatment residuals.

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

Phase 1

- Construction of a lined lagoon. The lagoon should be at least 4 acres and will include an underdrain system, a new north bank and connection with the existing transfer structures and pipelines.
- Construction of a “deer proof” fence around the wastewater lagoons.

Phase 2

- Construction of a second lined lagoon. This will include a new transfer structure, a new irrigation pump station, and the installation of a new gravity pipeline to the existing reuse (land application site) immediately east of the existing lagoon area.

Phase 3

- Installation of a new liner at the existing south lagoon.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by J-U-B Engineers, Inc. (JUB), consulting engineer for the Bruneau Water and Sewer District (District). JUB and DEQ consulted with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on consultation with agency officials, JUB and DEQ evaluated the potential short-term and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the wastewater improvement 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 impacts may occur during project construction including 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 the implementation of any and all appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive elements during construction activities as well as 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), Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, 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.
- 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.
- Waters and Wetlands: The Buckaroo Ditch may be temporarily impacted during construction of a new gravity pipeline. Should the proposed crossing of this water be completed by open trenching, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #12 may be required. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented as required and wherever possible to avoid or minimize impacts to this water.
- Noise: Impacts to sensitive receptors in the general vicinity of project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.

The following permits will be required for this project:

- Section 404 CWA Nationwide Permit #12 from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (if necessary, see above)
- 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, improving groundwater quality through reduction of effluent pollutant loads applied to agricultural land.

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 December 30, 2015 *Bruneau Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Master Plan*, and the December 30, 2015 *Bruneau Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Environmental Information Document*.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

Copies of the notice of a FONSI, the December 30, 2015 *Bruneau Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Master Plan*, and the December 30, 2015 *Bruneau Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Environmental Information Document* 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: Mike May – (208) 373-0406

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

Bruneau Water and Sewer District
P.O. Box 194
Bruneau, Idaho 83604
Contact: Stacey Buckingham, President – (208) 845-2188

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Owyhee Avalanche*, one time in the February 17, 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:

Mike May
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 March 18, 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: February 9, 2016
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental determination for the Bruneau Wastewater Improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), "Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants" (IDAPA 58.01.04), 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:

Bruneau Wastewater Improvements
Owyhee County
Bruneau, 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 impacts may occur during project construction that include 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 the implementation of any and all appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive elements during construction activities as well as 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), Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, 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.
- **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.
- **Waters and Wetlands:** The Buckaroo Ditch may be temporarily impacted during construction of a new gravity pipeline. Should the proposed crossing of this water be completed by open trenching, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #12 may be required. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented as required and wherever possible to avoid or minimize impacts to this water.
- **Noise:** Impacts to sensitive receptors in the general vicinity of project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.

The following permits will be obtained for the project:

- Section 404 CWA Nationwide Permit #12 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (if necessary, see above)
- 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, improving groundwater quality through reduction of effluent pollutant loads applied to agricultural land.

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to improve public health and the environment by repairing existing wastewater treatment facilities, providing additional wastewater treatment capacity, improving the efficiency of the wastewater land application, and separately treating drinking water treatment residuals.

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

Phase 1

- Construction of a lined lagoon. The lagoon should be at least 4 acres and will include an underdrain system, a new north bank and connection with the existing transfer structures and pipelines.
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Phase 2

- Construction of a second lined lagoon. This will include a new transfer structure, a new irrigation pump station, and the installation of a new gravity pipeline to the existing reuse (land application site) immediately east of the existing lagoon area.

Phase 3

- Installation of a new liner at the existing south lagoon.

Copies Available: Copies of the full FONSI, the December 30, 2015 *Bruneau Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Master Plan*, and the December 30, 2015 *Bruneau Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Environmental Information Document* 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
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Bruneau Water and Sewer District
P.O. Box 194
Bruneau, Idaho 83604
Contact: Stacey Buckingham, President – (208) 845-2188

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:

Mike May
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 March 18, 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