

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: 9/16/2020

To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals

Subject: Environmental determination for the City of Moyie Springs wastewater improvements project

In accordance with 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), 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:	City of Moyie Springs wastewater improvements project
Location:	Moyie Springs, Boundary County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	WWG-317-2007-10
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$12,150
DEQ Loan Number:	WW2004
Total Loan Project Cost:	\$2,621,000

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to upgrade the existing wastewater treatment system because it’s reaching designed capacity, make upgrades to equipment that is at the end of its useful life, and bring the system into compliance due to discharging without a permit.

Description of the Project: The proposed project involves:

- Upgrading influent screening;
- Upgrading Sequence Batch Reactor (SBR) treatment;
- Upgrading equalization basin;
- Upgrading chlorination and dechlorination units; and
- Construction of effluent discharge line from the (WWTP) to an outfall diffuser into the Kootenai River.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by Keller Associates (Keller), consulting engineer for the City of Moyie Springs. Keller and DEQ consulted with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally

sensitive resources. Based on consultation with agency experts, Keller 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 that includes temporary disruption of the 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), Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, Kootenai Tribal Council, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes 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 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.
- Wetlands: The WWTP and collection system, including proposed upgrades, are not located within wetlands. The proposed outfall and diffuser do not enter a wetland area. The current concept for the outfall does not require a 404 permit, and a Biological Assessment (BA) on behalf of the 404 permit is also not required. However, the design is still subject to change from unforeseen obstacles. A 404 permit and supplemental BA could be required if the current design deviates.
- 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.

The following permits will be required for this project:

- 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 to public health through improved discharged water quality. This project will result in the ability to meet water quality requirements and standards and also have positive impacts towards wetlands and water quality from protection to further damage caused by existing disposal method.

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 September 2020 *The City of Moyie Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant and Discharge Line Improvements Environmental Information Document* and supporting documentation.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

The documentation to support this decision is on file and available for review by submitting a public records request, pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-101, et seq. A request may be submitted at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/contact-us/public-records-request/online-prr-request-form/> or by contacting the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's Records Officer, Marcella Mink, at Marcella.Mink@deq.idaho.gov or (208) 373-0149.

The records may also be available for public review by contacting:

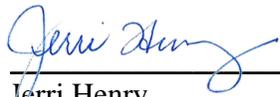
City of Moyie Springs
PO Box 573
Moyie Springs, Idaho 83845
Contact: John Wilson, Public Works Supervisor (208) 267-2598

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Bonnors Ferry Herald*, one time in the September 24, 2020 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:

Adam Oliver
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 October 26, 2020. 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.



Jerri Henry
Drinking Water Protection & Finance Division Administrator