



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

March 2, 2016

Mary Ellen Braithwaite
Groveland Water and Sewer District
P.O. Box 833
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

RE: Categorical exclusion for the Groveland Water and Sewer District Water Facilities
Improvements DWG-163-2016-2

Dear Ms. Braithwaite:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the environmental information document for the Groveland Water and Sewer District Water Facilities Improvements 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 is a signed copy of the Cat Ex for the referenced project.

DEQ has requested that the *Morning News*, newspaper of record for the Groveland Water and Sewer District, publish the enclosed Cat Ex legal notice for the referenced project one time on Friday, March 11, 2016. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain copies of the full Cat Ex.

The Groveland Water and Sewer District 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 move into the State Revolving Fund loan process.

Andrew Fellows at the DEQ Pocatello Office, (208) 236-5016, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project. Also, please contact

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Tim Wendland at the DEQ State Office for further information and how to get started on your State Revolving Fund loan process. He can be reached at (208) 373-0439.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:ahh:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office
Andrew Fellows, DEQ PRO Andrew.fellows@deq.idaho.gov
Luke Jolley, Harper-Leavitt Engineering, Inc. hle-blft@hleinc.com
Susan Lorenz, Southeast Idaho Council of Governments lorenz@sicog.org
Dave Flesher, USDA Rural Development david.flesher@id.usda.gov

March 2, 2016

Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed Groveland Water & Sewer District Water Facilities Improvements, Bingham County, Groveland, Idaho

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the December 2015 Groveland Water and Sewer District Water Facilities Planning Study in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities” (IDAPA 58.01.22) and “Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program” (IDAPA 58.01.20). 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). This Cat Ex applies to all phases identified in the Planning Study listed below. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under the SERP.

The proposed plan includes the following phases:

- Phase 1 – Acquire a secondary water source and provide backup power. Includes installation of a new well adjacent to the existing well, pump, motor, drive and associated piping and appurtenances.
- Phase 2 – Abandon current pressure tank and piping configuration for a series of 119 gallon pressurized bladder tanks with the associated piping and appurtenances within the existing well house.
- Phase 3 – Install water flow meters at every existing connection within the network.

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.
- There will be no direct or indirect affects to (a) cultural resource sites; (b) endangered or threatened species or their habitats; (c) essential fish habitat; (d) environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, important farmlands, aquifer recharge zones; or (e) other resource areas identified in DEQ’s guidance.
- The alternative selected by the Groveland Water and 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 “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 and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe 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 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.
- 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 improving water supply by providing redundancy and reliability throughout the system.

The documentation to support this decision is on file and available for public review on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx or 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
Pocatello, Idaho 83201
Regional Office contact: Andrew Fellows 208-236-5016

Groveland Water & Sewer District
367 W 150 N
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221
Contact: Clem Yancey 208-785-4902

A one-time publication is required in the newspaper of record. DEQ has requested the *Morning News* publish the Cat Ex legal notice for Groveland Water and Sewer District Water Facilities Improvements one time on *March 11, 2016*. 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.



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR THE
GROVELAND WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT WATER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the proposed drinking water improvement project for the Groveland Water and Sewer District, Bingham County, Idaho, conforms to the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities” (IDAPA 58.01.22) and “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 plan includes the following phases:

- Phase 1 – Acquire a secondary water source and provide backup power. Includes installation of a new well adjacent to the existing well, pump, motor, drive and associated piping and appurtenances.
- Phase 2 – Abandon current pressure tank and piping configuration for a series of 119 gallon pressurized bladder tanks with the associated piping and appurtenances within the existing well house.
- Phase 3 – Install water flow meters at every existing connection within the network.

Copies of the notice of categorical exclusion and the environmental information document upon which it is based are available for public review on DEQ’s website at www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx or at the following locations:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706
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