



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hillton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

August 27, 2012

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curt Fransen, Director

Mike Spray, Chairmen
Santa Water and Sewer Districts
P.O. Box 215
Fernwood, Idaho 83830

Re: Categorical Exclusion for Santa-Fernwood Water & Sewer Districts' Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project (WWG 332-2010-2 and WWG 333-2010-3)

Dear Mr. Spray:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed an environmental review of the project referenced above 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 please find a signed copy of the Categorical Exclusion for the referenced project.

DEQ has requested that the *Gazette Recorder* newspaper publish the enclosed Legal Notice of a Categorical Exclusion (legal notice) for the referenced project one (1) time on Wednesday, October 5, 2012. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain copies of the full Cat Ex.

The Santa Water and Sewer District should keep a copy of the Cat Ex and the legal notice as published for their records. There is no required public comment or waiting period after public notification of a Cat Ex. Following publication of the legal notice you may proceed with design and construction of the proposed project in accordance with DEQ requirements.

Mrs. Katy Baker-Casile, DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, 208-666-4640, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep her informed of progress on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry N. Burnell".

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:EC:ls

Enclosures: Cat Ex, Cat Ex Legal Notice

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office
Katy Baker-Casile, DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office
Marzetta Reimann, Fernwood Water & Sewer District (santawood@cpcinternet.com)
Ashley Williams, Welch, Comer & Associates (awilliams@welchcomer.com)
Necia Maiani, Welch, Comer & Associates (nmaiani@welchcomer.com)
Dennis Porter, Idaho Department of Commerce (Dennis.Porter@commerce.idaho.gov)
Kent Erickson, USDA-Rural Development (Kent.Erickson@id.usda.gov)



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C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curt Fransen, Director

August 27, 2012

Hank Lewis, Chairmen
Fernwood Water and Sewer Districts
P.O. Box 215
Fernwood, Idaho 83830

Re: Categorical Exclusion for Santa-Fernwood Water & Sewer Districts' Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project (WWG 332-2010-2 and WWG 333-2010-3)

Dear Mr. Lewis:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed an environmental review of the project referenced above 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 please find a signed copy of the Categorical Exclusion for the referenced project.

DEQ has requested that the *Gazette Recorder* newspaper publish the enclosed Legal Notice of a Categorical Exclusion (legal notice) for the referenced project one (1) time on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain copies of the full Cat Ex.

The Fernwood Water and Sewer District should keep a copy of the Cat Ex and the legal notice as published for their records. There is no required public comment or waiting period after public notification of a Cat Ex. Following publication of the legal notice you may proceed with design and construction of the proposed project in accordance with DEQ requirements.

Mrs. Katy Baker-Casile, DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, 208-666-4640, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep her informed of progress on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry N. Burnell".

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:EC:dls

Enclosures: Cat Ex, Cat Ex Legal Notice

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office
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Dennis Porter, Idaho Department of Commerce (Dennis.Porter@commerce.idaho.gov)
Kent Erickson, USDA-Rural Development (Kent.Erickson@id.usda.gov)

**LEGAL NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR THE SANTA-FERNWOOD
WATER & SEWER DISTRICTS' WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the proposed wastewater improvement project for the Santa-Fernwood Water & Sewer Districts' (Districts), Benewah County, Idaho conforms to Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants (IDAPA 58.01.04) and the Rules for Water Pollution Control Loans (IDAPA 58.01.12) by which the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements.

The wastewater treatment project improvements include the following: overflow piping reconfiguration at the lagoons; a new chlorine contact basin including replacement of 190 feet of existing 4 inch discharge line with a 24-inch pipe section; the construction of a new meter vault; installation of influent flow meters; and a 12 month groundwater monitoring plan to determine the need to reline the existing lagoons. All improvements will occur within the confines of the existing wastewater facility.

Copies of the notice of Categorical Exclusion and the environmental information document upon which it is based are available for public review on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx> or at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
1410 North Hilton Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
Grant/Loan SERP Coordinator: Ester Ceja
208-373-0585

Department of Environmental Quality
Coeur d'Alene Regional Office
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
Regional Office Contact: Katy Baker-Casile
208-666-4640

Santa-Fernwood Sewer and Water Districts
65290 Highway 3 South
Fernwood, Idaho 83830
Contact: Mike Spray (Santa) and Hank Lewis (Fernwood)
208-245-3554

August 27, 2012

**Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed
Santa-Fernwood Water & Sewer Districts' Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project
Benewah County, St. Maries, Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the July 2012 *Environmental Information Document for Santa-Fernwood Wastewater Treatment Facility* in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under the Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants (IDAPA 58.01.04) and the Rules for Water Pollution Control Loans (IDAPA 58.01.12). DEQ has determined that this project does not involve any extraordinary circumstances which require additional environmental analysis and documentation and is therefore eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under the state environmental review procedures.

The wastewater treatment project improvements include the following: overflow piping reconfiguration at the lagoons; a new chlorine contact basin including replacement of 190 feet of existing 4 inch discharge line with a 24-inch pipe section; the construction of a new meter vault; installation of influent flow meters; and a 12 month groundwater monitoring plan to determine the need to reline the existing lagoons. All improvements will occur within the confines of the existing wastewater facility.

DEQ has determined that this project is consistent with criteria for issuing a Categorical Exclusion for the following reasons:

- The proposed facility improvements include minor rehabilitation of existing facilities and construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as 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 be expected to change the current system's population by greater than 500 estimated residential units (ERUs).
- 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) environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands, aquifer recharge zones; or (d) other resource areas identified in DEQ's guidance.
- The alternative selected by the Santa-Fernwood Water and Sewer District (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 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 and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe shall be notified.
- **Stormwater:** Avoid stormwater runoff by a) 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 b) installing drains to control surface runoff and to minimize soil loss.
- 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 quality.

The documentation to support this decision is available for public review on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx> or at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
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1410 North Hilton Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
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Santa-Fernwood Sewer and Water Districts
65290 Highway 3 South
Fernwood, Idaho 83830
Contact: Mike Spray (Santa) and Hank Lewis (Fernwood)
208-245-3554

To comply with the Rules for Water Pollution Control Loans (IDAPA 58.01.12), a one time publication is required in the local newspaper with community wide circulation. DEQ has requested the *Gazette Recorder* newspaper publish the Categorical Exclusion legal notice for the Santa-Fernwood Water & Sewer Districts' Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project one (1) time on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. The legal notice will inform the public that the proposed project has received a Categorical Exclusion which excludes the project from further environmental review.

The Categorical Exclusion and published notice should be made part of the final facility plan/engineering report for this project.



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator