

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following as they apply to your proposed project:

1. **Alternatives:** Describe reasonable alternatives to the project.

The alternative screening process in preparation of the Preliminary Engineering Report considered numerous alternatives for the wastewater improvements in the Town of Cascade. After an initial evaluation, it was determined that some of the alternatives were not viable for the Town and were eliminated from further review. The alternatives considered are summarized below:

Collection System Alternatives:

- No Action
- Open Cut Sewer Main Replacement
- Combination Open Cut and Pipe Rehabilitation

Pumping Station Alternatives

- No Action
- New Transfer Switches at Pumping Stations
- Russel Drive Generator and Main Lift Station Transfer Switch
- Russel Drive and Main Lift Station Generators

Treatment Alternatives for Sludge Removal and Disposal:

- No Action– Not Feasible
- Dry Sludge In-Place
- Dragline Injection
- Temporary Drying Bed with Underdrains
- Geofabric Bags
- Filter Press Rental

A detailed alternatives analysis was performed on the viable alternatives presented above. The recommended Collection System Alternative was replacement of approximately 2,450 LF of deteriorated clay pipe with new PVC sewer mains and rehabilitation of approximately 350 LF of 8-inch clay pipe using Cured In Place Pipe (CIPP) trenchless techniques. The recommended Pumping Station Alternative is to install new propane powered generators for backup power at both the Russel Drive Lift Station and Main Lift Station. The alternatives analysis for sludge removal from the Town's treatment lagoons ultimately determined that the use of geofabric bags was the most financial viable alternative. However, the use of a temporary drying bed or rental of mechanical dewatering equipment are also viable alternatives. Since the opinion of probable costs presented in the PER are developed from budgetary estimates and previous bid tabulations and have an inherent margin of error; it is recommended that the Town allow all alternatives presented be bid as equals.

2. **Mitigation:** Identify any enforceable measures necessary to reduce any impacts to an insignificant level.

A number of agencies were invited to comment on the proposed improvements. After considering responses from the agencies and evaluating the environmental resources to be impacted, as presented in Chapter 2 of the PER, the Uniform Environmental Checklist was prepared.

No wetlands and no prime farmland were identified during the early planning process that will be adversely impacted by the proposed project. No other environmental issues are considered to be problematic. A The State Historic Preservation Office was contacted regarding the project and their response stated that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. A Storm Water Discharge Associated with Construction Activities authorization temporary construction impacts will be required from the state, and acquired by the Contractor, prior to construction commencement. Storm water management during the project will include temporary erosion and sediment control measures including the installation and maintenance of temporary structural control measures to reduce or eliminate the erosion of soils and transport of sediment offsite as a result of construction activities.

Essentially, all potential impacts of the proposed project are considered insignificant. Measures will be

taken during construction to minimize noise, dust, and other nuisances that could result from the construction work. For further review, a copy of the Environmental Checklist is attached.

3. **Is an EA or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required?** Describe whether or not an EA or EIS is required, and explain in detail why or why not.

As required, to complete the Town of Cascade's Treasure Stated Endowment Program (TSEP) grant application, Great West Engineering prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed project that assessed the potential environmental effects of the project. The draft EA was advertised and made available for public viewing and comments prior to the public meeting. A public meeting was held on February 25th that also addressed the draft EA. No public comment was received regarding environmental impacts of the proposed project. It was determined that an EIS is not required. The proposed project is expected to be categorically excluded because it is replacing old pipe and installing new pipe in previously disturbed areas. The Town of Cascade passed a resolution accepting the findings of the EA at their regular council meeting.

4. **Public Involvement:** Describe the process followed to involve the public in the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts. Identify the public meetings -- where and when -- the project was considered and discussed, and when the county approved the final environmental assessment.

A draft EA was prepared and made available for public viewing beginning prior to being presented at a public meeting. A public hearing was held at Town Hall that discussed the PER and the EA on February 25, 2016. A public notice appeared in the local newspaper, which advertised the availability of the draft EA and the public hearing. The Town of Cascade approved the final environmental assessment and passed a resolution accepting the findings of no significant impact.

5. **Person(s) Responsible for Preparing:** Identify the person(s) responsible for preparation of this checklist.

Steve Lipetzky, P.E. – Great West Engineering

6. **Other Agencies:** List any state, local, or federal agencies that have over-lapping or additional jurisdiction or environmental review responsibility for the proposed action and the permits, licenses, and other authorizations required; and list any agencies or groups that were contacted or contributed information to this Environmental Assessment (EA).

AGENCY	RESPONSE RECEIVED	
	YES	NO
Dept. of Commerce, Census & Economic Info. Center		X
Dept. of Labor & Industry	X	
Department of Environmental Quality - Permitting and Compliance Division	X	
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	X	
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation - Lewistown Water Resources Regional Office	X	
Cascade Conservation District		X
Montana Dept. of Transportation	X	
State Historic Preservation Office	X	
Town of Cascade Floodplain Administrator	X	
Cascade County Floodplain Administrator		X
US EPA - Montana Office		X
US Fish & Wildlife Service	X	
US Forest Service		X
US Army Corps of Engineers	X	
National Park Service		X
Federal Aviation Administration		X
Bureau of Land Management		X
Bureau of Indian Affairs		X
Natural Resource Conservation Service		X
Occupational Safety & Health Administration		X
US Dept. of Transportation	X	



 Authorized Representative, Title

4-22-16

 Date