

**SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION CHECKLIST**  
**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)**

Program Title \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Determination: \_\_\_\_\_ Significant \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Significant \_\_\_\_\_ Incomplete rev. 01/2000

| Part I: Applicability/Exclusions  | YES/NO | Notes / Basis for decision. |
|---|--------|-----------------------------|
| <p><i>ARM 17.30.701(1) &amp; 75-5-103(9), MCA</i></p> <p>1. Are any high quality waters affected? (Include downstream and downgradient)</p> <p><b>If NO, the nondegradation requirements are not applicable.</b></p>  |        |                             |
| <p><i>ARM 17.30.702(16) &amp; 17.30.705(1)</i></p> <p>2. New or increased source of pollutants?</p> <p><b>If NO, the nondegradation requirements are not applicable.</b></p>  |        |                             |
| <p>3. Activity categorically excluded under ARM 17.30.716 or 75-5-317, MCA?</p> <p><b>If YES, the Activity is Non-Significant.</b></p>  |        |                             |
| <p>4. Non-Significant under ARM 17.30.715(3)? (Public Notice Required)</p> <p><b>If YES, the Activity is Non-Significant.</b></p>   |        |                             |
| <p><i>ARM 17.30 sub-chapter 5</i></p> <p>5. Is this determination contingent upon granting a mixing zone?</p> <p><b>If YES, determine if a mixing zone can be granted before going on to Part II. If NO, continue on to Part II.</b></p>  |        |                             |
| Part II: Significance Determination   | YES/NO | Notes / Basis for decision. |
| <p><i>ARM 17.30.715(1)(a)</i></p> <p>6. Change in mean monthly flow of the surface water &gt; 15%, or change in 7Q10 flow &gt; 10%.</p>   |        |                             |
| <p><i>ARM 17.30.715(1)(b)</i></p> <p>7. Concentration of carcinogen or parameter with BCF &gt; 300 in discharge greater than receiving water.</p>   |        |                             |
| <p><i>ARM 17.30.715(1)(c)</i></p> <p>8. Increase in toxics or nutrients &gt; trigger value and concentration after mixing &gt; 15% of lowest applicable standard. For nutrients, if the answer is YES, the criteria in question #10 must also be exceeded for the activity to be significant.</p> |        |                             |
| <p><i>ARM 17.30.715(1)(f)</i></p> <p>9. Increase of a harmful parameter &gt; 10% of applicable standard and existing water quality &gt; 40% of applicable standard.</p>   |        |                             |
| <p><i>ARM 17.30.715(1)(g)</i></p> <p>10. Measurable effect on a beneficial use or measurable changes in aquatic life or ecological integrity from a narrative parameter.</p>  |        |                             |
| <p>11. Increase in nitrate-nitrogen in groundwater at a mixing zone boundary exceeds that allowed in ARM 17.30.715(1)(d).</p>   |        |                             |
| <p><i>ARM 17.30.715(1)(e)</i></p> <p>12. Increases in phosphorus in groundwater where adsorptive capacity of soils will be exceeded within 50 years and will reach surface water, or the activity does not employ department approved water quality protection practices.</p>                     |        |                             |
| <p>13. Significant under ARM 17.30.715(2)?</p>  |        |                             |

**If any answers to Questions #6 through #13 are YES, the Activity is Significant (except for question #8 as applied to nutrients).**