



**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR THE TOWN OF DUTTON  
WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS**

Date: April 26, 2018

Action: Replacing Water Transmission Main, water meters, valves and fire-hydrants

Location of Project: Dutton, Montana

DWSRF Funding: \$860,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,150,000

An environmental review has been conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for improvements to the water system in Dutton, Montana. The proposed project includes: improvements to the well pumphouse, including the structure, the pumps and piping, and the chemical feed system; and the replacement of 3,700-feet of water transmission main; and installation of new water meters, water main valves, and new fire hydrants. The purpose of the project is to make improvements needed to ensure an adequate supply of water necessary to protect public health.

The affected environment will primarily be near the Teton River approximately five and one-half miles north of Dutton and then continuing three-fourths of a mile south. Areas within town will be affected by the installation of five new valves and eight new fire hydrants and water meters. The human environment affected will include Dutton and the surrounding area. Based on the information provided in the references below, the project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features, or social quality.

This project will be funded with a low-interest loan from the Montana Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program, administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

The Department of Environmental Quality used the following references in completing its environmental review of this project:

- Town of Dutton, 2016 Preliminary Engineering Report, Water System Improvements, May 2016, prepared by Great West Engineering, Helena, Montana.

- Town of Dutton, Engineering Design Report, Water System Improvements, March 2018, prepared by Great West Engineering, Helena, Montana.
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Application for the Town of Dutton, Montana, April 26, 2016, prepared by Town of Dutton, Dutton, Montana.
- Project Manual, Dutton Montana, Water System Improvements, March 2018, prepared by Great West Engineering, Helena, Montana.
- Town of Dutton Water System Improvements., Preliminary Design Plans, February 2018, prepared by Great West Engineering, Helena, Montana.

Ten State and Federal agencies were contacted regarding the proposed construction of this project. The following seven agencies responded:

- The Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office
- The Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- The United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks
- The Teton County Planning Department
- The Montana Department of Transportation
- The Montana Department of Labor and Industry

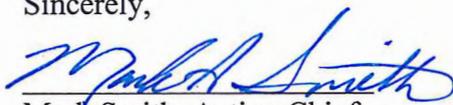
References and the DEQ environmental assessment are available for review upon request by contacting:

Marcus J. Golz, P.E.  
 Department of Environmental Quality  
 P.O. Box 200901  
 Helena, Montana 59620-0901  
 Phone: (406) 444-6770  
 Email: mgolz@mt.gov

Susan Fleshman  
 Mayor  
 Town of Dutton  
 P.O. Box 156  
 Dutton, MT 59433

Comments on this finding or on the environmental assessment may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than May 27, 2018. After evaluating all substantive comments received, the department will revise the environmental assessment or determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary. Otherwise, this finding of no significant impact will stand if no substantive comments are received during the comment period or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Sincerely,



Mark Smith, Acting Chief  
 Engineering Bureau  
 Water Quality Division

TOWN OF DUTTON  
WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. COVER SHEET

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: Town of Dutton  
Address: P.O. Box 156  
Dutton, MT 59433  
Project Number: Not yet assigned

B. CONTACT PERSON

Name: Susan Fleshman, Mayor  
Town of Dutton  
Address: P.O. Box 156  
Dutton, MT 59433  
Telephone: (406) 476-3311

C. ABSTRACT

The proposed project would include the following improvements: installing two new pumps in the well pumphouse, upgrading the piping within the pumphouse, upgrading the polyphosphate feed system, installing a new roof, installing an emergency backup generator, and upgrading the electrical system. The project will also install approximately 3,700 feet of transmission main from the well house to the chlorine vault. In town: water meters will be replaced, five valves will be replaced, and eight fire hydrants will be installed. Finally, repairs will be made to a drain vault near the 500,000-gallon storage tank. The proposed water system improvements will enable the town to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act and will ensure that drinking water meeting state and federal regulations will continue to be safely and reliably provided to all consumers.

The project will be funded by a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and grants from the Federal government and possibly Montana's Treasure State Endowment Program. Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, and threatened or endangered species are not expected to be adversely impacted because of the proposed project. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified during the preparation of this document.

D. COMMENT PERIOD: Thirty calendar days.

## II. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

### A. EXISTING FACILITIES

The May 2016 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for Town of Dutton Water System Improvements – prepared by Great West Engineering – describes Dutton’s water system. The Dutton water system provides potable water to a population of approximately 320. Source water is pumped from a caisson well five and one-half miles northeast of town near the Teton River. Water is treated with polyphosphate for iron and manganese and then disinfected with chlorine (sodium hypochlorite). Once treated the water is pumped to town. There are two storage tanks in town: an older 120,000-gallon tank that is currently inactive and a newer 500,000-gallon tank south of town that was recently updated with new paint coating inside and out.

The system has the following deficiencies identified in the PER:

- Over the last eight years the town of Dutton has recorded nine repairs made on the transmission main between the water supply well and the chlorine vault. There is also evidence that the pipe has significant leakage contributing to almost 50% of the water that is pumped being lost. When breaks occur on this main there is an increase in public health risk due to the possibility of contaminants being drawn into the system. Also, breaks in the pipe require the town to be cut off from its only water supply when repairs must be made to the transmission main.
- The pumphouse piping, pumps, roof, and heating, ventilating and cooling system are beyond their useful lives and need to be replaced.
- The water supply has no backup power and thus is vulnerable to power failures.
- The polyphosphate chemical feed system, used to treat iron and manganese, fails frequently and needs to be replaced.
- Water meters in Dutton frequently fail and need constant repair or replacement. This results in water not being properly measured and inaccurate billing for water.
- Four of the fire hydrants are inoperable and others are of the same age and need to be replaced before they become inoperable.

The overall purpose of the project is to construct improvements that correct these deficiencies and to allow the town to continue to provide safe potable water to the residents of Dutton.

## III. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

### A. ALTERNATIVES

Five alternatives, and a no-action alternative, are described in detail in the May

2016 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for Town of Dutton Water System Improvements – prepared by Great West Engineering. The alternatives for addressing the town’s water system needs are presented here:

NO ACTION – This alternative was determined to be unacceptable since it would not address the deterioration of the water system. Failure to carry out the proposed improvements could result in increased costs in the future to repair the water system and increased public health and safety risks.

ACTION ALTERNATIVES described in detail in the PER, are briefly identified below:

- a. PVC transmission main and pumphouse improvements.
- b. HDPE transmission main and pumphouse improvements.
- c. Replace chemical feed pumps.
- d. Touch read water meters and installation of fire hydrants.
- e. Radio read meters and installation of fire hydrants.

Great West Engineering and Dutton developed a matrix to compare each alternative objectively against the other alternatives to help select the most advantageous alternative and eventually to help design the proposed project.

#### SELECTED ALTERNATIVE/PROPOSED PROJECT

The alternative selected from the matrix analysis resulted in the proposed project which includes the following components:

1. Replacement of approximately 3,700 feet of the existing transmission main from the pumphouse to the chlorine vault.
2. Replacement of the existing submersible supply pumps with vertical turbine supply pumps in the pumphouse.
3. Replacement of all piping in the pumphouse.
4. Replacement of chemical feed system for polyphosphate in the pumphouse.
5. Replacement of the pumphouse roof.
6. Installing a new electrical system in the pumphouse.
7. Installing a new propane tank and propane generator at the pumphouse.
8. Replacement of water meters in town with radio read water meters.
9. Replacing eight fire hydrants in town.

10. Repairs to the drain vault for the 500,000-gallon water storage tank.

By constructing these improvements, the town will ensure that an adequate supply of safe water will continue to be delivered to the users of the system and public health and safety with respect to the water supply will be ensured.

#### B. TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS

The estimated total cost of the proposed project is \$1,150,000. The town anticipates receiving a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to finance the project and has a federal grant from the Water Resources Development Agency. Average monthly water rates are expected to increase from a current level of \$45.37 to \$52.24 to adequately fund the water system.

### IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

#### A. PLANNING AREA

The Town of Dutton is a town in Teton County Montana. Dutton is situated along Interstate 15 approximately 37 miles northwest of Great Falls Montana.

Construction of the proposed project is expected to begin and be completed in 2018.

#### B. FLOW PROJECTIONS

According to the PER, the water system's estimated average daily water demand is 80,000 gallons per day, and the design maximum daily demand is expected to be 227,000 gallons per day.

#### C. NATURAL FEATURES

Dutton, elevation 3,714 feet, is a farming and ranching community in north central Montana. Topography of the planning area consists of rolling plains and farmland. Typical soils are loams, with some silt and clay present. Native vegetation includes grasses typical of the north central Montana prairies, and deciduous trees and bushes. There are some wetlands in the project area near the Teton River.

The climate of Dutton is cool and semi-arid, typical of the plains of northcentral Montana. Maximum precipitation occurs in April, May, and June and gradually tapers off until December, January, and February which are the driest months.

Some of the project area — the existing pumphouse and some of the transmission main near the pumphouse — lies within the 100-year floodplain for the Teton River. The rest of the project does not lie within a floodplain.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service identifies seven species in Montana as endangered and seven species as threatened. The endangered animal species include the whooping crane, Eskimo curlew, black-footed ferret, pallid sturgeon, white sturgeon, least tern, and gray wolf. Threatened animal species in the state include the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, piping plover, and bull trout. Threatened plant species are the Spalding's catch-fly, water howellia and Ute Ladies'-tresses. Additionally, three animal species, the warm springs beetle, yellow-billed cuckoo, and arctic grayling, and one plant species, the slender moonwort, are listed as candidate species for a threatened or endangered designation.

Construction will take place: 1) on existing sites within a rural setting beginning approximately five and a half miles north of Dutton near the Teton River and continuing for almost three-fourths of a mile south; and 2) within the town of Dutton; and 3) near the storage tank south of town. No sensitive plant species are expected to be disturbed by the construction. Similarly, the construction sites do not provide prime habitat for wildlife, and as a result, no effects on wildlife are anticipated. It is possible that raptors or herons may nest in the riparian habitat along the Teton and short term disturbance of these birds could occur during construction, but should not cause long term adverse effects.

## V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

### A. DIRECT AND INDIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Housing and Commercial Development – The project area is primarily rangeland and agricultural. There are no houses in the immediate vicinity of the project construction area for the transmission main. Some areas in town will be affected when excavation to replace valves and fire hydrants occurs. In addition, installation of meters will affect homeowners. The proposed improvements are not expected to have any lasting or detrimental impacts on housing or commercial development.
2. Future Land Use – No adverse impacts to land use are expected from the proposed project.
3. Floodplains and Wetlands – The existing well and pumphouse project area lies within a 100-year floodplain; however, these sites already exist and no additional risk to either the sites or the floodplain are expected from

activities associated with the project. No wetlands will be disturbed on the proposed construction sites.

4. Cultural Resources – Montana State Historic Preservation Office was contacted and the office conducted a cultural resource file search. SHPO identified previously recorded sites within the search locale, but also concluded that there is a low likelihood that cultural properties will be impacted and therefore that a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time.
5. Fish and Wildlife – As mentioned above, birds, including for example large raptors or herons could nest in the riparian habitat along the Teton River. Construction could cause one season’s disturbance to nesting or habitat use in the immediate vicinity of the project site. In addition, the United States Fish and Wildlife service was contacted and their response concluded that USFWS does “not anticipate adverse effects to threatened, endangered, or candidate species to result from implementation of the proposed project.” In constructing the project, the stipulations contained in that USFWS letter of March 10, 2016 must be followed. However, no long term adverse effects on biological resources in the area are anticipated from the proposed project.
6. Water Quality – Impacts on water quality are expected to be minor and short-term. Short-term impacts on surface and groundwater quality can be controlled through proper construction practices.
7. Air Quality - Short-term negative impacts on air quality may occur from heavy equipment, dust and exhaust fumes during project construction. Construction practices and dust abatement measures will be implemented during construction to control dust, thus minimizing this problem.
8. Public Health – The proposed project is not expected to have adverse impacts on public health, and should instead enhance public health by upgrading water treatment facilities.
9. Energy - During construction of the proposed project, additional energy will be used, causing a direct short-term impact on this resource.
10. Noise - Short-term impacts from increased noise levels may occur during construction of the proposed project improvements. Construction activities are anticipated to occur seasonally for several months during daylight hours only.
11. Sludge Disposal – No sludge will be produced by this water project.
12. Environmental Justice – Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898. The proposed project will not result in adverse human health or

environmental effects on minority or low-income populations. However, water rates will increase because of this project. Water rates are estimated to increase from \$45.37 to \$52.24 per month for the community.

13. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act – The proposed project will not impact any rivers designated as wild and scenic by Congress or the Secretary of the Interior.
14. Growth – The 20-year design population is based on a growth rate of approximately 1%. The proposed improvements can serve the projected 2036 population of 386. The proposed improvements to the treatment system will be a positive feature for the community and will allow the town to manage its growth in a proactive manner within its service area.
15. Cumulative Effects – No significant secondary or cumulative impacts are anticipated with the proposed improvements. Providing service to the 20-year design population of 386 should not create any cumulative or secondary impacts linked to housing, commercial development, solid waste, transportation, utilities, air quality, water utilization, or possible loss of agricultural or rural lands.

## B. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Short-term construction-related impacts, such as noise, dust and traffic disruption, will occur but can be minimized through proper construction management. Energy consumption during construction cannot be avoided. No permanent direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed action.

## VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

As part of the preliminary engineering and alternatives analysis, and rate setting, and potential funding processes, the proposed work on the water system was discussed by the town council during several public meetings. The open meetings allowed for input from the town, residents, and businesses. A public meeting was held March 14, 2016 to make a presentation of the proposed project.

## VII. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following documents were used in the environmental review of this project and are considered part of the project file:

- A. Town of Dutton, 2016 Preliminary Engineering Report, Water System Improvements, May 2016, prepared by Great West Engineering, Helena, Montana.

- B. Town of Dutton, Engineering Design Report, Water System Improvements, March 2018, prepared by Great West Engineering, Helena, Montana.
- C. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Application for the Town of Dutton, Montana, April 26, 2016, prepared by Town of Dutton, Dutton, Montana.
- D. Project Manual, Dutton Montana, Water System Improvements, March 2018, prepared by Great West Engineering, Helena, Montana.
- E. Town of Dutton Water System Improvements., Preliminary Design Plans, February 2018, prepared by Great West Engineering, Helena, Montana.

#### VIII. AGENCIES CONSULTED

Ten State and Federal agencies were contacted regarding the proposed construction of this project. Seven agencies responded and below is a summary of each response received:

- A. The Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office responded via email on February 26th, 2016. SHPO identified previously recorded sites within the search locale, but also concluded that there is a low likelihood that cultural properties will be impacted and therefore that a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time.
- B. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality responded in a letter of March 7, 2015. DEQ indicated the reviews will be performed by DEQ personnel and that other DEQ permits associated with the project may be required. This environmental assessment is part of that review. In addition, plans and specifications for the project are being reviewed for compliance with Circular DEQ-1 Standards for Water Works and for conformance with the programmatic requirements of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- C. The United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service responded in a letter dated March 10, 2016. The Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that it does “not anticipate adverse effects to threatened, endangered, or candidate species to result from implementation of the proposed project.”
- D. The Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks responded that a 310 permit may be required at the pump intake and to contact the Teton County Conservation District.
- E. The Teton County Planning Department responded on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 that a floodplain permit will be required.

- F. The Montana Department of Transportation responded on March 2, 2016 that the proposal appears to have a potential impact on MDT facilities and/or right-of-way and to contact the Great Falls District Maintenance Chief to discuss necessary permits.
- G. The Montana Department of Labor and Industry responded on March 11, 2016 stating its requirements for commercial building codes and to contact the department for applicable permits as the project progresses.

IX. AGENCY ACTION, APPLICABLE REGULATIONS, AND PERMITTING AUTHORITIES

The town must have approval from the Department of Environmental Quality to construct and operate the water system improvements outlined in this environmental assessment. In addition, the proposed action may require other permits that must be obtained by the town's construction contractor, as described above and in the project manual. The contractor will be required to submit the necessary documentation, including a notice of intent and storm water pollution prevention plan, to the DEQ storm water permitting program prior to beginning construction.

X. RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

- EIS       More Detailed EA       No Further Analysis

Rationale for Recommendation: Through this EA, DEQ concludes that none of the adverse impacts of the proposed Town of Dutton water improvements project are significant. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. The environmental review was conducted in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.4.607, 17.4.608, 17.4.609, and 17.4.610. The EA is the appropriate level of analysis because none of the adverse effects of the impacts are significant.

EA prepared by:

Marcus Golz  
Name

April 25, 2018  
Date

EA reviewed by:

Robert Ashton  
Name

April 25, 2018  
Date

