



**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE
CITY OF LAUREL
WATER TREATMENT PLANT INTAKE PROJECT**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date:	March 24, 2016
Action:	Water Treatment Plant Intake Project
Location of Project:	Yellowstone County, Montana
DWSRF Funding:	\$1,735,000
FEMA Funding:	\$8,099,194
City of Laurel:	\$1,000,000
Total Project Cost:	\$10,834,194

In 2014 a draft environmental assessment was prepared on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding the Water Treatment Plant Intake project proposed by the city of Laurel. To satisfy its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Montana Environmental Policy Act, the Department of Environmental Quality proposes to base its Finding of No Significant Impact on the FEMA environmental assessment.

The project consists of the construction of a new concrete water treatment plant intake in the Yellowstone River, approximately 32,200 lineal feet of water transmission main, approximately 5,400 lineal feet of hot water lines, and approximately 43,100 lineal feet of air lines, along with air release valve vaults, trenchless railroad and highway crossings, new control building, generator, and other appurtenances.

The affected environment will be the vicinity of the Yellowstone River from the Laurel Water Treatment Plant to a point three miles upstream where the intake will be constructed, all in Yellowstone County, Montana. The human environment affected will include residents and visitors of the area. Based on the draft environmental assessment, the project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including threatened or endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features, or social quality. No potential contaminant sources were identified within the project area. The project specifications will contain necessary actions that the construction contractor must take in the event that soil or groundwater contamination is encountered during construction.

The following documents were used in preparing the environmental review of this project: 1) Project Manual, City of Laurel, Montana Water Treatment Plant Intake, February 2016, prepared by Great West Engineering, Billings, Montana; 2) Construction Plans, City of Laurel, Montana Water Treatment Plant Intake, February 2016, prepared by Great West Engineering, Billings, Montana; 3) City of Laurel Water Treatment Plant Intake Design Report, February 2016, prepared by Great West Engineering, Billings,

Montana; 4) Uniform Application Form for Montana Public Facility Projects, submitted to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality by the city of Laurel on December 1, 2015; 5) Draft Environmental Assessment, City of Laurel Water Treatment Plant Intake, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on July 28, 2014; and 6) Federal Emergency Management Agency Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Water Intake System, City of Laurel, Yellowstone County, Montana, dated November 24, 2014. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

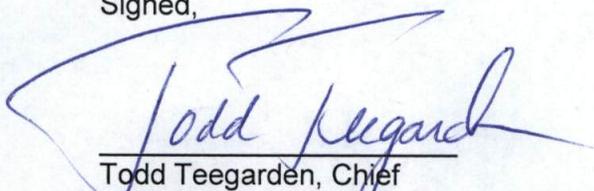
Gary J. Wiens, P.E.
Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601
Phone: 406-444-7838
E-mail: gwiens@mt.gov

or:

Shirley Ewan, Clerk/Treasurer
City of Laurel
115 West First Street
Laurel, Montana 59044
Phone: 406-628-7431, extension 2

Comments on this finding or on the environmental assessment may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the date of publication of this FONSI in the newspaper. After evaluating substantive comments received, DEQ will revise the findings of 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.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Teegarden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Todd Teegarden, Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau

c: file

Laurel Water Intake & Delivery Pipe Proposal. 2016

