The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above named project. The City of Colstrip has identified the need for the rehabilitation of several of its unit processes at the wastewater treatment facility due to issues associated with age, reliability, maintenance capabilities, operator safety, and treatment adequacy. The city will correct these deficiencies through proposed improvements to the following unit processes: 1) upgrade the headworks facility through the installation of a new mechanical screen to improve trash removal and installation of an ultrasonic flow meter at the existing Parshall flume for continuous monitoring and recording of the influent flow; 2) install the necessary cable anchor system and power supply so that two floating aerators (previously purchased) can be installed in the sludge storage pond to help control odors; and 3) construct a secondary clarifier to serve as a redundant unit so the existing clarifier can be taken off-line for maintenance purposes and rehabilitation. All of the proposed improvements will occur on city-owned property within the boundaries of the existing wastewater treatment facility.

Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality has concluded that the proposed project meets the Categorical Exclusion criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Categorical Exclusion may be revoked if the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the Preliminary Engineering Report, a new or modified application is submitted, or new evidence demonstrates serious local or environmental issues exist, or state, local, tribal, or federal laws are violated.

The documentation for the Categorical Exclusion is available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Sincerely,

Todd Teegarden, Bureau Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau
Planning Prevention & Assistance Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality