



**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-17-05**  
**March 27, 2017**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue wastewater discharge permits to the facilities listed in this notice. These permits are issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); ARM 17.30.1001 *et seq.*, Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared draft permits for the facilities listed below. Copies of the draft permits, fact sheets, and environmental assessments are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov).

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: Robert Alexander

FACILITY NAME: Red Dog Ranch Subdivision

FACILITY LOCATION: At the corner of Frontage Road and Roman Creek Road

RECEIVING WATER: Outfall 001 – Class I Ground Water

PERMIT NUMBER: MTX000212

A determination has been made by DEQ to reissue a Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) permit, MTX000212, to Robert Alexander for the proposed Red Dog Ranch Subdivision. This permitting action authorizes discharge of treated wastewater to ground water. The scope of this permitting action is for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed wastewater treatment and disposal system.

The wastewater generated by the Red Dog Ranch Subdivision will undergo treatment and on-site disposal. The applicant proposes to construct and operate a Level II wastewater treatment plant comprised of an attached growth reactor and aeration basin system. Treated effluent will be discharged to Class I ground water via a drainfield. DEQ recognizes that in comparison to conventional septic treatment, the proposed treatment system may provide a higher level of treatment for nutrients.

The proposed facility will use two side by side subsurface drainfields (Outfall 001) to discharge

treated wastewater to underlying groundwater. The discharge structure's proposed location is: Southwest ¼ of Section 27 and Northwest ¼ of Section 34, Township 15 North, Range 21 West, Latitude 47.02222 and Longitude -114.24833; Missoula County.

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APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT NAME: Town of Belt  
P.O. Box 453  
Belt, MT 59412

FACILITY NAME: Belt Wastewater Treatment Facility

FACILITY LOCATION: T19N, R06E, Section 23, SE1/4  
Cascade County

RECEIVING WATER: B & M Coulee

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0021571

This permit is a reissuance of a Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit for discharge of treated wastewater to B & M Coulee, a tributary to Belt Creek. The receiving water does not have year-round flow, except for the portion wetted by the discharge from the Town of Belt Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The Town of Belt operates a three-cell aerated lagoon system, presently without effluent disinfection, constructed in 1996. The domestic wastewater collection and treatment system serves approximately 592 people. The proposed permit will maintain existing national secondary treatment standards (NSS) for five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>) and pH, treatment equivalent to secondary (TES) for total suspended solids (TSS), and existing limits on *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria, total residual chlorine and the metals: arsenic, cadmium, iron, lead and zinc. The metals limits were established in the previous permit renewal to comply with the wasteload allocation for the WWTF in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Belt Creek dated January 24, 2011. The Town plans to upgrade the WWTF to include disposal of effluent via land application (spray irrigation) by the end of September 2017. After the WWTF upgrade is completed and operational, a discharge to B & M Coulee would occur only as a result of an unusual situation. The proposed permit requires periodic self-monitoring of discharge quality and quantity, with monthly reporting of results. This permit and Fact Sheet will be submitted to the EPA for approval.

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APPLICANT NAME: City of Columbia Falls  
600 Veterans Drive  
Columbia Falls, MT

FACILITY NAME: Whitehall Wastewater Treatment Facility

FACILITY LOCATION: Township 30N, Range 20W, Section 19, Flathead County

RECEIVING WATER: Flathead River

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0020036

This permit is a reissuance of a Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit for discharge of treated wastewater to Flathead River. The City of Columbia Falls operates a biological nutrient removal (BNR) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) with ultraviolet (UV) disinfection. The facility was originally constructed in 1969 and has been modified with expansions completed in 1983, 1987, 2000, and 2010. The proposed permit will (1) maintain national secondary treatment standards for five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>), total suspended solids (TSS), and pH and (2) maintain existing limits on *E. coli* bacteria and total nitrogen, and total phosphorus. The proposed permit requires periodic self-monitoring and reporting of discharge quality and quantity and periodic monitoring and reporting of upstream ambient water quality. This permit and Fact Sheet will be submitted to the EPA for approval.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited **ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS April 25, 2017**. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Quality Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked **PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS April 25, 2017**, will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail the Department at [DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov](mailto:DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov).

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373 and 17.30.1024).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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