



January 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is accepting public comments specific to new underground storage tanks to be installed near Kalispell, Montana at the proposed Mountain West Coop Kalispell.

DEQ has prepared the following Environmental Assessment (EA) as required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (sections ARM 17.4.607(2) and ARM 17.4.609(2)). This project involves installing one 16,000-gallon triple-compartment Containment Solutions Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) double-walled Underground Storage Tank (UST) containing Off-Road Dyed Diesel (4,000 gallon compartment), Premium Roadmaster Diesel (8,000 gallon compartment), and Premium Unleaded Gasoline (4,000 gallon compartment), and one 15,000 dual-compartment Containment Solutions FRP double-walled UST containing Diesel # 2 (8,000-gallon compartment) and Regular Unleaded Gasoline (7,000-gallon compartment). All of the UST systems will utilize secondarily contained Franklin Fueling Systems APT XP secondary contained double-walled flexible pipe. The proposed project will add five (5) new UST systems to the newly developed Mountain West Coop Kalispell, located at 700 Rail Park Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Specific installation plans include the following materials and monitoring systems: **Tank(s):** This project involves installing the following five (5) tanks: 4,000-gallon dyed diesel, 8,000-gallon premium diesel, 4,000-gallon premium unleaded gasoline, 8,000-gallon # 2 diesel, and 7,000-gallon regular unleaded gasoline. All five tanks will be Containment Solutions FRP double-walled UST systems. Each tank will be utilized by Mountain West Coop Kalispell as a petroleum re-fueling site. **Piping:** All product piping associated with this project will be Franklin Fueling Systems APT XP secondary contained double-walled flexible pipe. Approximately 400 feet of double-walled Franklin Fueling Systems APT XP piping will be utilized in this project. **Sumps:** Containment Solutions fiberglass tank-top sumps will be installed around each tank's submersible turbine pump. Franklin Fueling Systems Large Mouth Polyethylene under-dispenser containment sumps will be installed under each dispenser. Each tank and piping system will be continuously monitored. Monitoring will be accomplished via internal tank probes, interstitial tank sensors, as well as continuous sensor monitoring in all containment sumps and electronic line leak detection with programmed 0.2 gph shutdown rate for each of the piping runs. A Veeder Root TLS 450 plus automatic tank gauge (ATG) will continuously monitor all operational parameters.

DEQ prepares EAs to examine and document the effects of a proposed action on the quality of the human and physical environment. After a ten-day public comment period, DEQ will consider the substantive comments received in response the EA and proceed with one of the following actions: a) determine that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is necessary; b) determine that the EA did not adequately reflect issues raised by the proposed action and issue a revised EA; or c) determine that further environmental analysis is not necessary and make a final decision on the proposed action with any modification deemed necessary as a result of analysis in the EA and public comment.

If you care to comment on this proposed project or the attached EA, please write or email the Waste Management and Remediation Division. Comments must be in writing and must be received by January 23, 2020. Our email address is [degustprogram@mt.gov](mailto:degustprogram@mt.gov) and our mailing address is DEQ/UST, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901.

Sincerely,

Seth Hendrix, Environmental Science Specialist  
Underground Storage Tank Section  
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau  
Enc: Environmental Assessment

O/O NAME: Mountain West Coop	FACILITY NO: 60-15343
PERMIT NO: 20-0111	DATE OF APPLICATION: December 4, 2019
PERSON PREPARING EA: Seth Hendrix	COUNTY: Flathead
LOCATION: 700 Rail Park Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901	
FACILITY NAME: Mountain West Coop Kalispell	EA COMPLETED: 1/10/2020
<p><b>DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:</b> <b>Tank(s):</b> This project involves installing the following five (5) tanks: 4,000-gallon dyed diesel, 8,000-gallon premium diesel, 4,000-gallon premium unleaded gasoline, 8,000-gallon # 2 diesel, and 7,000-gallon regular unleaded gasoline. All five tanks will be Containment Solutions FRP double-walled UST systems. Each tank will be utilized by Mountain West Coop Kalispell as a petroleum re-fueling site. <b>Piping:</b> All product piping associated with this project will be Franklin Fueling Systems APT XP secondary contained double-walled flexible pipe. Approximately 400 feet of double-walled Franklin Fueling Systems APT XP piping will be utilized in this project. <b>Sumps:</b> Containment Solutions fiberglass tank-top sumps will be installed around each tank's submersible turbine pump. Franklin Fueling Systems Large Mouth Polyethylene under-dispenser containment sumps will be installed under each dispenser. Each tank and piping system will be continuously monitored. Monitoring will be accomplished via internal tank probes, interstitial tank sensors, as well as continuous sensor monitoring in all containment sumps and electronic line leak detection with programmed 0.2 gph shutdown rate for each of the piping runs. A Veeder Root TLS 450 plus automatic tank gauge (ATG) will continuously monitor all operational parameters.</p> <p>Products to be stored: Regular Unleaded Gasoline (87 octane), Premium Gasoline (92 Octane), Diesel # 2, Premium Diesel, and Off-Road Dyed Diesel.</p>	
<p><b>DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:</b> Purpose is to install five (5) new petroleum UST systems for storing and dispensing gasoline, diesel, and off-road diesel at Mountain West Coop Kalispell, creating a new petroleum re-fueling station. The benefits include efficient access to fuel.</p>	

- A: Significant unavoidable impacts
- B: Potential significant impacts mitigated based upon license conditions
- C: Insignificant as proposed

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
1. <b>TOPOGRAPHY:</b> Are there unusual geologic features? Will the surface features be changed?			X			The proposed site is currently a relatively flat bare lot with a couple of existing small businesses located on the property and plans for future development. Current business operations include the CHS Mountain West Coop feed store and grain elevator, Glacier Rail Park, and Adolph & Bothwell Financial. The facility parcel is located north of Highway 2 in Kalispell, Montana. The physical address of the site is 700 Rail Park Drive, Kalispell, MT. The site is currently a 32.770-acre lot and is located west of Klingler Lumber Company within Flathead county, but just outside of the town of Kalispell boundary. There are no known or reported unusual geologic features.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	POTENTIAL IMPACTS					
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
						The tanks and all of the associated product piping will be buried underground, while appurtenant equipment is above ground. The general topography will not change. Surface features will be consistent with retail petroleum re-fueling facilities.

2. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE</u> : Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there special reclamation considerations?			X			<p>There are no known special reclamation considerations for the project site, nor were any fragile or unstable soils identified to the reviewer. The City of Kalispell Montana has issued a building permit (Building Permit No. C19-081) and has approved building permit plans for electrical and fuel canopy installation pending required inspections. Required inspections include a footing inspection, foundation wall inspection, prefinal inspection, and final inspection. Montana DEQ Federal Superfund Program does not have a project on this project site.</p> <p>Soil disturbances and storm water runoff during construction are regulated under MPDES Authorization. A General Permit for Storm Water Discharges associated with construction activity will be issued.</p>
3. <u>WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION</u> : Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?		X				<p>Important water resources are present at the proposed location. There are approximately 60 public and private water wells located within 1 mile of the proposed site. The Flathead River is located within 1.76 miles of the proposed site. The Stillwater River is located within 400 feet of the proposed site.</p> <p>There is no significant surface water within 2,400 feet of the proposed underground storage tank installation. The proposed site lies within the Stillwater watershed.</p> <p>Soil disturbances and storm water runoff during construction are regulated under MPDES Authorization. A General Permit for Storm Water Discharges associated with construction activity will be issued.</p>

					<p>Protection of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality is mitigated by secondarily contained non-corroding underground tanks/piping and continuous system monitoring.</p> <p>Proper operation of this system would significantly decrease the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, and the degradation of water quality. Secondary containment and leak detection systems serve to mitigate the potential impacts by immediately reducing the amount of fuel available for release to the environment and by making early detection of releases possible.</p>
4. <u>AIR QUALITY</u> : Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?			X		<p>Petroleum vapors will be mitigated by natural air currents, submerged fill pipes, stage-one vapor recovery system and vapory recovery vent pipes will control hydrocarbon vapors.</p> <p>The proposed project site is not located in a Class I airshed. The closest Class I airshed is located at least 24 miles away from the project site (Glacier National Park)</p>
5. <u>DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY</u> : Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?			X		<p>This project will not use existing environmental resources in the local area. There are no other nearby activities identified to the reviewer that may be impacted.</p>
6. <u>IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</u> : Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?		X			<p>The City of Kalispell Montana has issued a building permit (Building Permit No. C19-081) and has approved building permit plans for electrical and fuel canopy installation pending required inspections. Required inspections include a footing inspection, foundation wall inspection, prefinal inspection, and final inspection. Montana DEQ Federal Superfund Program does not have a project on this project site. There are no other known environmental studies or projects on this land.</p>

<p>7. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS</u>: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>			X		<p>No known use of this project site by important wildlife, birds, or fish has been identified to the reviewer. The project site is not in the core, general, or connective sage grouse habitat areas as designated by the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. There are no listed Critical Habitat areas located within 1.8 miles of the proposed site. Critical Bull Trout habitat found on the Flathead River is located 1.8 miles east of the proposed site. Critical Canada Lynx habitat found on the Flathead National Forest is 9.6 miles away from the proposed site.</p>
<p>8. <u>VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY</u>: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>			X		<p>Montana Cadastral lists this property, which is owned by Flathead County Economic Development Authority, as Property Type EP-Exempt Property. The project location currently has a large amount of small and large businesses in the vicinity, and is close to a number of residential properties. No rare plants or cover types are reported to this reviewer.</p>
<p>9. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</u>: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Any species of special concern?</p>			X		<p>The project site is not in the core, general, or connective sage grouse habitat areas as designated by the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. There are eight endangered species listed for Flathead County: Bull Trout, Grizzly Bear, Spalding's Compton, Canada Lynx, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Wolverine, Meltwater Lednian Stonefly, and Whitebark Pine. There are 77 animal species of concern and 125 plant species of concern identified in Flathead County. There are Riverine Wetland Habitats located within 370 feet of the project site.</p>
<p>10. <u>HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE</u>: Are any historical, archeological or paleontological resources present?</p>			X		<p>The National Register of Historic Places lists 142 National Historic Landmarks in Flathead County. There are no listed structures at the project site. There are no known archeological or paleontological resources reported to the reviewer.</p>

<p>11. <u>AESTHETICS</u>: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise, light or odors?</p>		X			<p>Mountain West Coop Kalispell will be visible from Whitefish Stage road and Flathead Drive. This project will be located on the same parcel of land as the existing CHS Mountain West Coop grain elevator and feed store. The proposed project, (underground storage tank installation) storage tanks and piping will be buried underground.</p>
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						Appurtenant above ground equipment will be visible, but is consistent with the existing character of the adjacent commercial properties (existing CHS Mountain West Coop grain elevator and feed store). Other neighboring existing businesses include Adolph Bothwell Financial, Glacier Rail Park, Kingler Lumber Company, Pacific Steel & Recycling.
12. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> : Will grazing lands, irrigation waters or crop production be affected?			X			No significant impacts to agricultural lands are anticipated by this project. The project parcel was used previously as a gravel pit. Almost all of the 32 acres of land on the property parcel is bare land with the exception of a large grain elevator, feed store, a few buildings. New developments are currently being planned.
<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>						
1. <u>SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES</u> : Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?		X				It is not anticipated that the project will disrupt native or traditional lifestyles or communities.
2. <u>CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY</u> : Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?			X			It is not anticipated that the project will cause a shift in any cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area.
3. <u>DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING</u> : Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?			X			It is not anticipated that the project (underground tank installations) will add to the population or require additional housing. The project result (unmanned credit card only fueling station) has extremely limited potential to add to the population and require additional housing.
4. <u>HUMAN HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</u> : Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?		X				It is anticipated that natural air currents and tank vents will dissipate hydrocarbon vapors to a safe level. Leak detection equipment is designed to detect releases before serious health or safety problems occur.  Proper operation of leak detection systems and operating requirements mitigate potential risks by making early detection of releases possible and by immediately reducing the amount of fuel available to be released into the environment, where it could impact health and human safety.
5. <u>COMMUNITY &amp; PERSONAL INCOME</u> : Will the facility generate or degrade income?		X				The project result (unmanned credit card re-fueling station) is anticipated to have very limited potential to generate community and personal income in the local area.

<p>6. <u>QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT</u>: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimate jobs.</p>		X			<p>It is not anticipated that this underground storage tank installation project will create or eliminate permanent jobs. During the underground storage tank construction of the facility, there will be minimal temporary jobs created.</p>
<p>7. <u>LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE REVENUES</u>: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>		X			<p>It is anticipated that the re-fueling station associated with this proposal will generate some additional local and state tax revenue.</p>
<p>8. <u>DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES</u>: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?</p>		X			<p>It is anticipated that the result of this proposed project will add to the local traffic flow around Whitefish Stage Road and Flathead Drive. An increase in law enforcement activities (increased calls and routine patrols) in the area may be necessary.</p>
<p>9. <u>INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION</u>: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>			X		<p>No significant impacts to adjacent commercial or agricultural activities are anticipated that are related to this project. The property has already been developed for commercial activities and further commercial additions are planned.</p>
<p>10. <u>ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES</u>: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?</p>			X		<p>USFS National Forest recreational property is located within 9.6 miles of the project site, but is not accessed through the project location. Glacier National Park is located 26 miles east of the project site. Whitefish Mountain Resort is located 20 miles north of the project site. Big Sky Waterpark is located 12.5 miles northeast of the project site. Village Greens Golf Course is located 1.5 miles north of the project site. The Stillwater River is located within 400 feet of the project site, but is not accessed through the project location. No designated recreational properties are located within the project area. It is not anticipated that this project site has recreational potential.</p>
<p>11. <u>AESTHETICS</u>: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise, light or odors?</p>			X		<p>Mountain West Coop Kalispell will be visible from Whitefish Stage Road and Flathead Drive. The proposed underground storage tank project will result in buried underground storage tanks and piping that will not be visible above ground. Appurtenant above ground equipment will be visible. It is not anticipated that this project will change the aesthetics of the area significantly. The result of the project (re-fueling station) is consistent with the aesthetics of other properties in the area.</p>

<p>12. <u>LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:</u> Are there state, county, city, USFS, BLM, tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?</p>			X		<p>The City of Kalispell Montana issued a building permit for this project (Building Permit No. C19-081) and has approved building permit plans for electrical and fuel canopy installation pending required inspections. Required inspections include a footing inspection, foundation wall inspection, prefinal inspection, and final inspection. Montana DEQ Federal Superfund Program does not have a project on this project site.</p> <p>There are no known local, county, state, or federal environmental management plans that would impact this project development. The proposed project and associated development is expected to be in conformance with current Flathead County, City of Kalispell, and State of Montana zoning requirements.</p>
<p>13. <u>TRANSPORTATION:</u> Will the project affect local transportation networks and traffic flow?</p>		X			<p>This project is expected to affect immediately adjacent local transportation networks. Increased vehicle traffic will occur near and on the proposed site.</p>

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** The department has attempted to identify parties who may be interested in this proposed project and to provide the opportunity for public comment. A copy of this Environmental Assessment has been posted on our website at <http://deq.mt.gov/Land/ust/ea>. Substantive comment may be provided to our email address at [dequstprogram@mt.gov](mailto:dequstprogram@mt.gov).

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** No other alternatives were presented or considered.

**COMPLIANCE STATUS:** This project, as permitted, will be in compliance with the UST regulations. The facility must, however, be operated and maintained in accordance with the UST rules and regulations. This facility is required to have a compliance inspection done within 120 days of the installation of the tank systems.

**RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PREPARATION OF AN EIS:** Not necessary at this time, based upon the information reviewed. The project, as proposed with mandatory operating and permit conditions, will not have a significant environmental impact.

**OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION:** The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, The Montana Department of Justice, and the State Fire Marshall's Office.

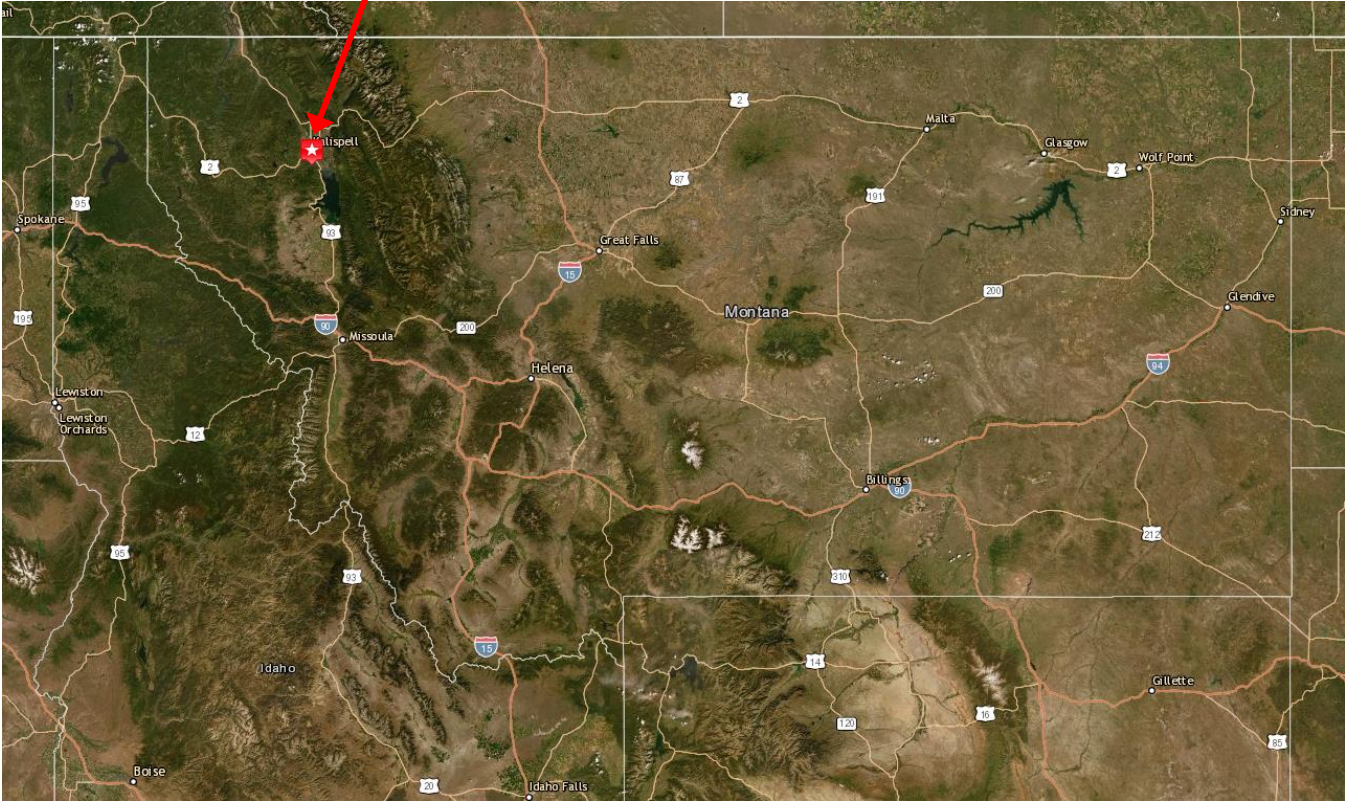
**INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EA:** The owner, the contractor, and the preparer of this EA.

**PERMIT CONDITION EFFECTS:** Permit conditions are based on Montana and federal regulations, PEI RP100-2000 and accepted standard engineering practices.

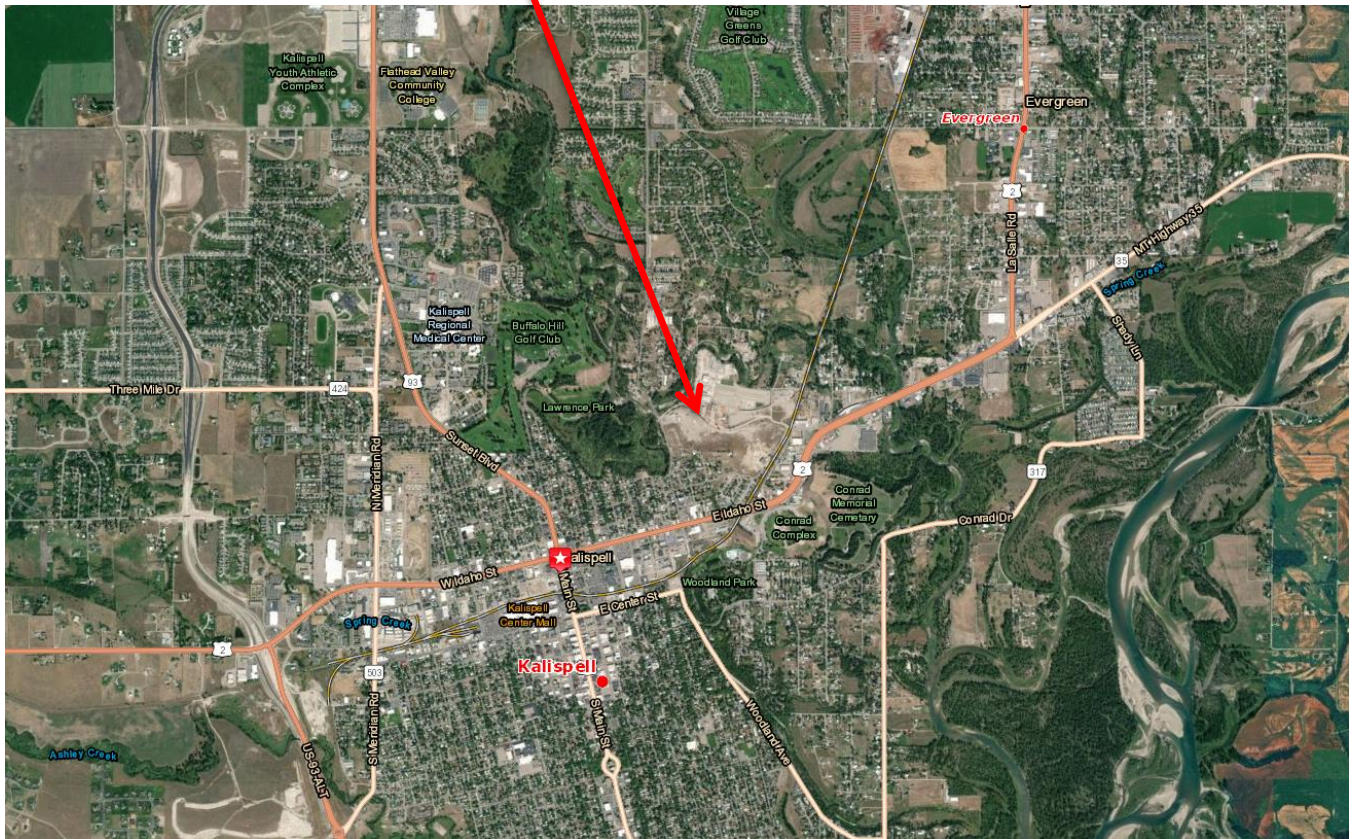
cc: Governor's Office  
Legislative Environmental Policy Office



General Location of Project Site:



Detailed Project Site Location: Proposed Mountain West Coop Kalispell



Proposed Project Site Physical Address: 700 Rail Park Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901

Close-up Project Site Location: Proposed Mountain West Coop Kalispell



Proposed Project Site Physical Address: 700 Rail Park Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901