



March 28, 2025

Marc Liechti, District President
Lakeside Water & Sewer District
235 Bierney Creek Road
Lakeside, MT 59922

RE: Lakeside Wastewater Treatment System Capacity Analysis: EQ# 25-2193
Planning Document Comments

Dear Mr. Liechti:

Based on the capacity memo provided to the department on February 24, 2025, and subsequent email correspondence, the department concurs with the following regarding the current capacity of the existing Lakeside District wastewater treatment facility.

1. Per DEQ-2 Section 11.243.a. the district provided supporting documentation to show that the existing connections in the district produce wastewater at a rate of 162 gallons per day per EDU. The district has proposed to use a value of 230 gallons per day per EDU for future capacity allocation.
2. The capacity of the treatment system is limited by the storage lagoons. Based on water balance calculations performed, the storage lagoons have a capacity of 316,500 gallons per day.
3. Since the storage lagoons are predominantly used to store treated wastewater when land application cannot be performed, the capacity must be based on winter inflows to the plant. Based on monthly influent data provided by the district for 2018 through 2024, the average influent for the months of October through March is 217,543 gallons per day. To maintain conservatism and consistency with previous methodology, the maximum winter flow rate for the period provided will be used as the existing system winter influent flow rate. In 2023, winter inflows to the plant were 228,797 gallons per day.
4. Based on the current storage lagoon capacity, and current winter inflows, the wastewater treatment system has a remaining capacity of 87,703 gallons per day.
5. Per the provided capacity memo, and a per EDU flow rate of 230 gallons per day, the district has current commitments in place of 33,280 gallons per day.
6. Based on the current system inflows and existing commitments, the district has a remaining capacity of 54,423 gallons per day. At 230 gallons per day per EDU, this results in 228 additional EDUs capacity.

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The department requests that the district provide a capacity summary follow-up one year after the date of this memo. In that summary, please include the number of active EDUs, average annual influent and winter influent (October – March), and an update on district capacity commitments.

If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me at (406) 444-5368 or Steven.Lipetzky@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Lipetzky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "L".

Steve Lipetzky, PE
DEQ Engineering Bureau

Cc (email): Rodney Olson, General Manager – Lakeside W&S District
Brad Koenig, PE, RPA
Rachel Clark, DEQ
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