



April 9, 2026

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

As required by state and federal rules for determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project: Lakeside County Water & Sewer District – Wastewater System Improvements Project – Phase 2
Location: Lakeside, Montana
Project Number: C301326

In the Lakeside Water and Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan (September 2025), the District identified the limited capacity of the existing aerated wastewater treatment lagoons. Additionally, in 2023 the District entered into an agreement with Flathead County to accept and treat septage pumped from septic tanks throughout the county. To effectively treat the additional septage load and meet the expected growth, the District determined that improvements to their wastewater treatment system were needed.

The proposed Phase 2 Wastewater Treatment Improvements project will include construction of a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) advanced mechanical wastewater treatment plant to replace the District's existing aerated lagoon system, as well as construction of three rapid infiltration basins (RIBs) for groundwater disposal of treated wastewater.

Federal and State grant/loan programs will fund the project. Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, and historical sites are not expected to be adversely impacted because of the proposed project. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified.

An environmental assessment (EA), which describes the project and analyzes the impacts in more detail, is available for public scrutiny on the DEQ web site (<http://www.deq.mt.gov/Public/ea>) and at the following locations:

Steve Lipetzky, P.E.
Department of Environmental Quality
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601

Rodney Olson, General Manager
Lakeside County Water & Sewer District
253 Bierney Creek Road
Lakeside, MT 59922

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited and **must be received by 11:59 p.m. on April 23rd, 2026.** Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Quality Division at the above address. All comments **received or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. April 23, 2026,** will be considered in the final determination. If you wish to comment electronically, you may email DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing has been scheduled for 5:00-7:00 p.m. Thursday April 23, 2026, in the Community Room at the Lakeside QRU (201 Bills Road, Lakeside, MT 59922) and virtually via Zoom. The Zoom link will be available prior to the hearing at this link: <https://deq.mt.gov/public/publicmeetings>.

The purpose of the April 23, 2026 hearing is to receive comment on the draft environmental assessment. DEQ will not be responding to any comments during the hearing. The department will consider comments received at the hearing as well as any other comments received during the public comment period in issuing a final decision. A written transcript of this hearing will be prepared and will be available upon request.

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. After evaluating comments received, the department will revise the environmental assessment or determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary. 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, the agency will make a final decision.

Sincerely,



Rachel Clark, P.E.
Engineering Bureau
Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality