



**PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND EXTENSION
OF PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-24-14
February 12, 2025**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is extending the public comment period for the draft Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) permit, draft environmental assessment and draft fact sheet for Lakeside County Water & Sewer District. DEQ is extending the public comment period on the draft MGWPCS permit package through **February 27, 2025**.

Copies of the draft permit, draft environmental assessment, and draft fact sheet are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on DEQ's website: <https://deq.mt.gov/public/water-public>.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT:	Lakeside County Water & Sewer District
FACILITY NAME:	LCWSD Rapid Infiltration System
FACILITY LOCATION:	Wiley Dike Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901
RECEIVING WATER:	Outfall 001 – Class I Ground Water Outfall 002 – Class I Ground Water Outfall 003 – Class I Ground Water
PERMIT NUMBER:	MTX000307

A tentative determination has been made by DEQ to issue a Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) permit, MTX000307, to Lakeside County Water and Sewer District (LCWSD) for the LCWSD Rapid Infiltration System. This permitting action authorizes discharge of treated wastewater to ground water. The proposed permit supports LCWSD's plan to update and expand LCWSD's wastewater treatment facility to accept, treat, and handle wastewater and discharge treated wastewater to groundwater subject to permit limitations and conditions designed to protect the receiving groundwaters and downgradient state waters.

Concurrent with this proposed permit, LCWSD proposes to build and operate a wastewater treatment plant where wastewater will undergo treatment and on-site disposal. Wastewater treatment may include use of advanced treatment levels with sequencing batch reactor technology with biochemical nutrient reduction (or similar). DEQ recognizes that in comparison to conventional septic treatment, the proposed

treatment system provides a higher level of treatment for nutrients.

The proposed facility will use rapid infiltration basins (Outfalls 001, 002, and 003) to discharge treated wastewater to underlying groundwater. The facility's proposed location is: Township 27N, Range 21W, Section 11N; Flathead County; Latitude: 48.1127610° North, Longitude: -114.225111° West.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited **and must be received by 11:59 p.m. on FEBRUARY 27, 2025.** Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Quality Division, Water Protection Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked **by 11:59 p.m. February 27, 2025,** will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permit. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Department received multiple requests for a public hearing and determined good cause exists to hold a public hearing. **A public hearing has been scheduled for 3:00-5:00 p.m. February 27, 2025, in the Community Room at the Lakeside ORU (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 public comment period has been extended from February 10, 2025, to 11:59 p.m. on February 27, 2025.**

The purpose of the February 27, 2025, hearing is to receive comment on the draft permit, draft environmental assessment, and draft fact sheet. **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 prepare a written response to all significant comments raised during the comment period, including the hearing.

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days following the hearing. Additional information may be obtained by submitting a request at <https://deq.mt.gov/about/public-records>.

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