

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
CITY OF MALTA, MONTANA
MANGANESE TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS

May 27, 2026

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above-named project. The project consists of the installation of a new skid-mounted pressure filtration system to treat for manganese at both the Pool and Catholic Wellhouses. Manganese is naturally occurring in two of the town's four well sources. Levels in the two sources are above the Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory. The project will reduce those levels to well below the secondary maximum contaminant level. The project will also include construction of a new building and chlorine room at each location, a new telemetry system, new water mains to reconnect to the existing water distribution system, and installation of sewer services to connect each wellhouse to the existing wastewater collection system for the disposal of the manganese treatment waste stream.

Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the Department has concluded that the proposed project meets the Categorical Exclusion criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Categorical Exclusion may be revoked if the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the planning documents, a new or modified application is submitted, new evidence demonstrates serious local or environmental issues exist, or state, local, tribal, or federal laws are violated.

The documentation for the Categorical Exclusion is available for public review at <http://deq.mt.gov/public/publicnotice> and at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601

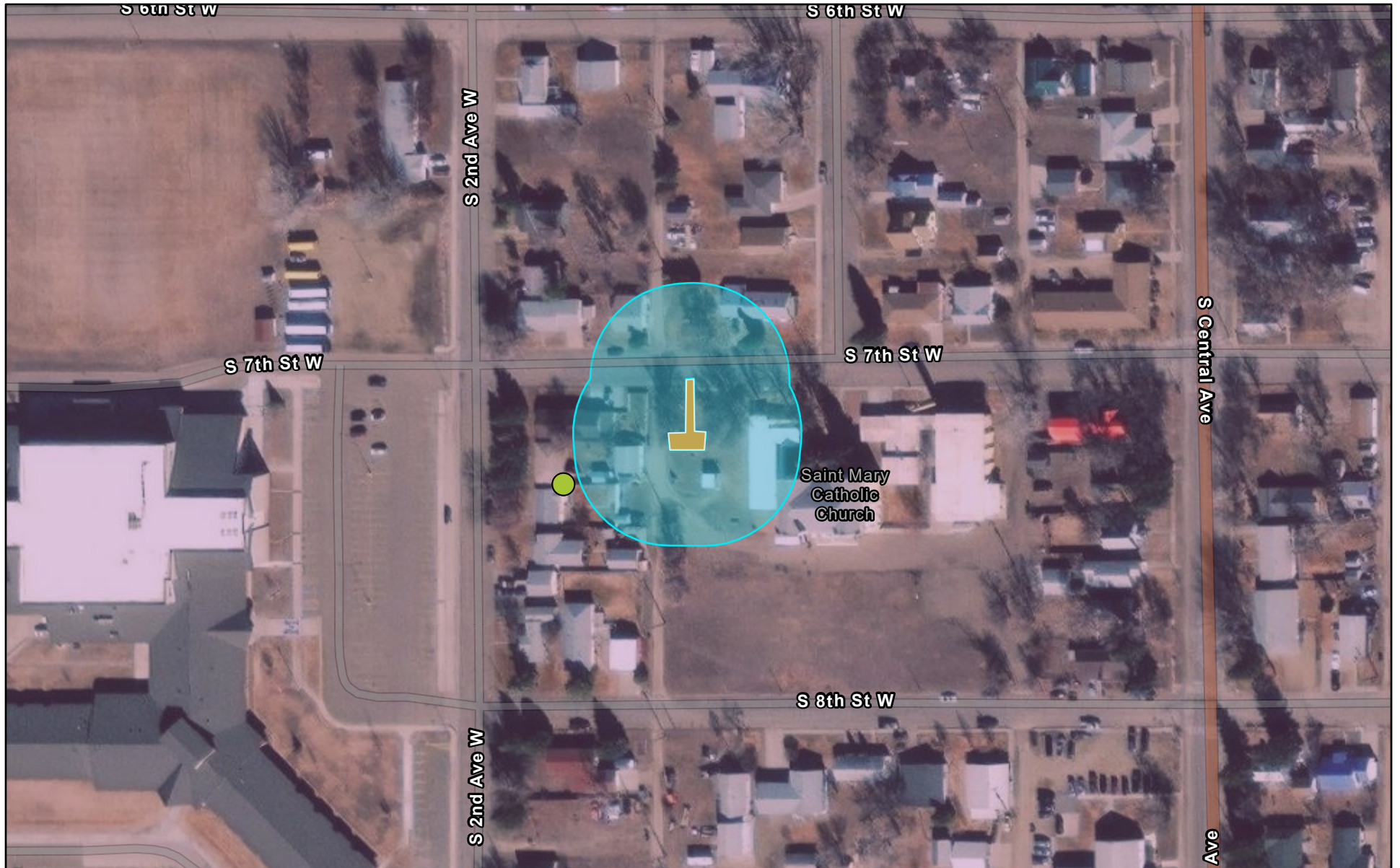
City of Malta
39 S 2nd Street East
Malta, MT 59538

Sincerely,




Mike Abrahamson, WPCSRF Engineering Manager
Engineering Bureau
Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Catholic Well-Potential Contaminant Source Review



5/5/2026, 10:45:00 AM


 Catholic Well Treatment Improvements - Impact Area

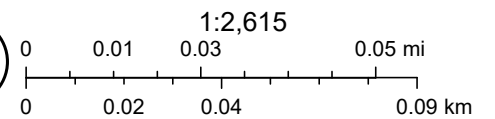
 TREATMENT PLANT

Montana Public Water Supply Facilities

 Montana Source Water Regions

 WELL

 Municipal Sewer System



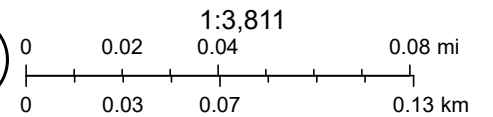
Source: Esri, Vantor, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap

Pool Well-Potential Contaminant Source Review



5/5/2026, 10:42:48 AM

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Pool Well Improvements Impact Area | Montana Source Water Regions | Petroleum Tank Substance Releases | Low Septic Density |
| Montana Public Water Supply Facilities | Underground Storage Tank Facilities | Open | Municipal Sewer System |
| WELL | Underground Storage Tanks | Resolved | |
| TREATMENT PLANT | | | |



Source: Esri, Vantor, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap

**CHAPTER IV - ATTACHMENT A
DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
CHECKLIST**

Project Name / Brief Description: Manganese Treatment Improvements Project

Project Number: EQ # 26-2238

Date: May 22, 2026

Preparer: SRK

The Department action under Title 75, chapter 5, part 11 and or chapter 6, part 1 or 2, MCA, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers “no”, an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

1. minor upgrading;

Yes No

Minor upgrading - Project results in no disturbance of cultural, recreation, environmental or historically significant properties. Especially those described by any of the following (*National Historic Preservation Act properties or SHPO cultural sites, Land and Water Conservation Act sites, Natural System of Wild and Scenic Rivers, work within base floodplain (100-year flood), permanent wetland impact, work within threatened or endangered species or critical habitat sites, known Superfund site, affects prime or unique farmland*). Project will not result in traffic disruption (i.e. alternate route and business access provided or better yet, not needed). Also, the project should not be considered minor if any of the following conditions exist: (*involves permanent acquisition of property such as right-of-way or land for expansion, requires an Army Corps of Engineers Individual Section 404 permit for placement of fill materials*).

2. minor expansion of system capacity;

Yes **No**

3. rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components;

Yes No

4. construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or

Yes No

5. projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in

the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges.

Yes **No**

(b) A categorical exclusion may not be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers “no”, skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

6. the action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;

Yes **No**

7. the action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;

Yes **No**

8. the action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

Yes **No**

9. the action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

Yes **No**

10. the action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

Yes **No**

11. the department has received information indicating that public controversy exists over the project's potential effects on the quality of the human environment;

Yes **No**

Public controversy - Substantial controversy on environmental grounds. Must be based on one or more of the following: (*Visual Quality, Nuisances, Noise, Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources, Changes in Demographic (Population) Characteristics, General Housing Conditions, Displacement or Relocation of Businesses or Residents, Public Health and Safety, Local Employment and Income, Local and State Tax Base and Revenues, Educational Facilities, Commercial and Industrial Production and Activity, Growth or Decline, Health Care, Social Services, Land Use Compatibility, Energy Resources, Solid Waste Management, Public Safety, Fire Protection, Parks, Playground, and Open Space, Consistency with Local Ordinances, Regulatory Action on Private Property Rights*)

12. the department determines that the proposed project that is the subject of the state action shows some potential for causing a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, based on ARM 17.4.608, or might possibly affect:

- (i) sensitive environmental or cultural resource areas; or
- (ii) endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats.

Yes

No

(c) If the proposed project meets the conditions above in determining use of a CATEX, the reviewer will then complete items 13 - 17 as follows:

[Once all steps 1- 17 are complete, reviewer shall sign and date at bottom. If revocation becomes necessary, reviewer shall initiate an EA or EIS as appropriate.]

13. Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria. _Yes_

14. DEQ determination of Categorical Exclusion. _Yes_

15. DEQ distributes the Notice of Determination. _____

16. Notice of Publication and cover letter (containing revocation language below) is delivered to recipient. _____

17. Notice of Publication published in local newspaper by recipient and evidence of publication provided to reviewer. _____

(d) The department may revoke a categorical exclusion if:

[Only complete the steps below 18 – 21 if revocation of a previously implemented CATEX becomes necessary.]

18. the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the facility plan, or a new or modified application is submitted; _____

19. the proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion because of changes in the proposed action; _____

20. new evidence demonstrates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or _____

21. state, local, tribal, or federal laws may be violated. _____



STATE PREPARER

Mike Abrahamson

STATE REVIEWER

COMPLETION DATE