

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
CITY OF RED LODGE, MONTANA
16-INCH BYPASS LINE PROJECT

March 28, 2025

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above-named project. The Red Lodge 16-inch Bypass Line Project consists of installing approximately 3,370 lineal feet of 16-inch PVC water main to bypass the existing pressure reducing valve on White Avenue South, including all associated temporary water, appurtenances and surface repair. The project also includes the removal of booster pumps located in a utility building and installing a new pressure reducing system in the same utility building. The new 16-inch water line will be installed along White Avenue South between the Carbon County Shop building and South Airport Road. The utility building is located near the intersection of Lazy M Street and US Highway 78. The proposed project is needed to address low pressure problems in a portion of Red Lodge's water service area.

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 documentation for the Categorical Exclusion is available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Red Lodge City Hall
1 Platt Avenue South
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Sincerely,



Rachel Clark, PE, Bureau Chief
Engineering Bureau
Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality

Potential Contaminant Review Red Lodge Bypass

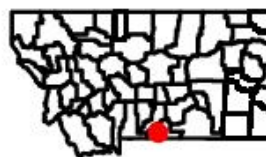


Abandoned Mine Areas

- AML Coal
- ▲ Open Petroleum Releases
- ▲ Resolved Petroleum Releases
- ▲ Rescinded Petroleum Releases
- Regulated Tanks

R8 Class 5 Wells

- Active
- Plugged & Abandoned
- Proposed
- Under Construction
- Not Applicable
- Temporarily Abandoned
- PCS Lines



0 500 1,000 2,000
Feet



Carolyn DeMartino, March 26, 2025
Source Water Protection Program
Montana DEQ Water Quality Division

CHAPTER III – ATTACHMENT D

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: Red Lodge 16-inch Bypass Line Project

Project Number: EQ No. 25-1527

Date: March 27, 2025

Preparer: Sandie Koenig

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).]

- Yes 1. minor upgrading;
- Yes 2. minor expansion of system capacity;
- Yes 3. rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components;
- No 4. construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
- No 5. projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of 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.

(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.]

- No 6. the action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;
- 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;
- No 8. the action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;
- No 9. the action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;
- No 10. the action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

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;

No

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.

(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.

✓

14. DEQ determination of Categorical Exclusion.

_____ 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

STATE REVIEWER

COMPLETION DATE