



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

CITY OF KALISPELL, MONTANA

WPCSRF #: C301334

Kalispell Biosolids Treatment and Disposal

April 2, 2025

The City of Kalispell's Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) manages biosolids generated from wastewater treatment. Approximately 70% of the City's biosolids are composted at Glacier Gold Composting (GGC) and the remaining 30% are disposed at the Flathead County Landfill (Landfill). Through a 2024 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), the City evaluated alternatives for future biosolids management. Action is needed because GGC is closing its Olney, MT composting facility in Fall 2026, the Landfill cannot accept more biosolids at the moisture content currently produced (averaging of 15% total solids), and emerging contaminant regulations may present challenges for long-term land application of biosolids. The City selected a dewatering and Landfill disposal option to safely and effectively manage its biosolids in a cost-effective manner. The construction project comprises installing a new biosolids dewatering volute press and associated equipment and removal of the existing belt filter press system. All work will be within the existing AWWTP facility. The project will allow the AWWTP to produce biosolids at a moisture content (18-20%) that will allow safe disposal of all the material at the Landfill, protecting public health and the environment. The dewatering project provides redundancy for equipment in the AWWTP and is a prerequisite if additional biosolids processing such as drying is required in the future.

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 facility plan, 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 the following locations and online at <https://deq.mt.gov/public/publicnotice>:

Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601
Peter.behrends2@mt.gov

Susie Turner, Public Works Director
City of Kalispell
201 1st Avenue East
Kalispell, MT 59903
Sturner@kalispell.com

Sincerely,

Michael Abrahamson

Michael Abrahamson, PE
Section Supervisor
Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Program
Engineering Bureau, Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

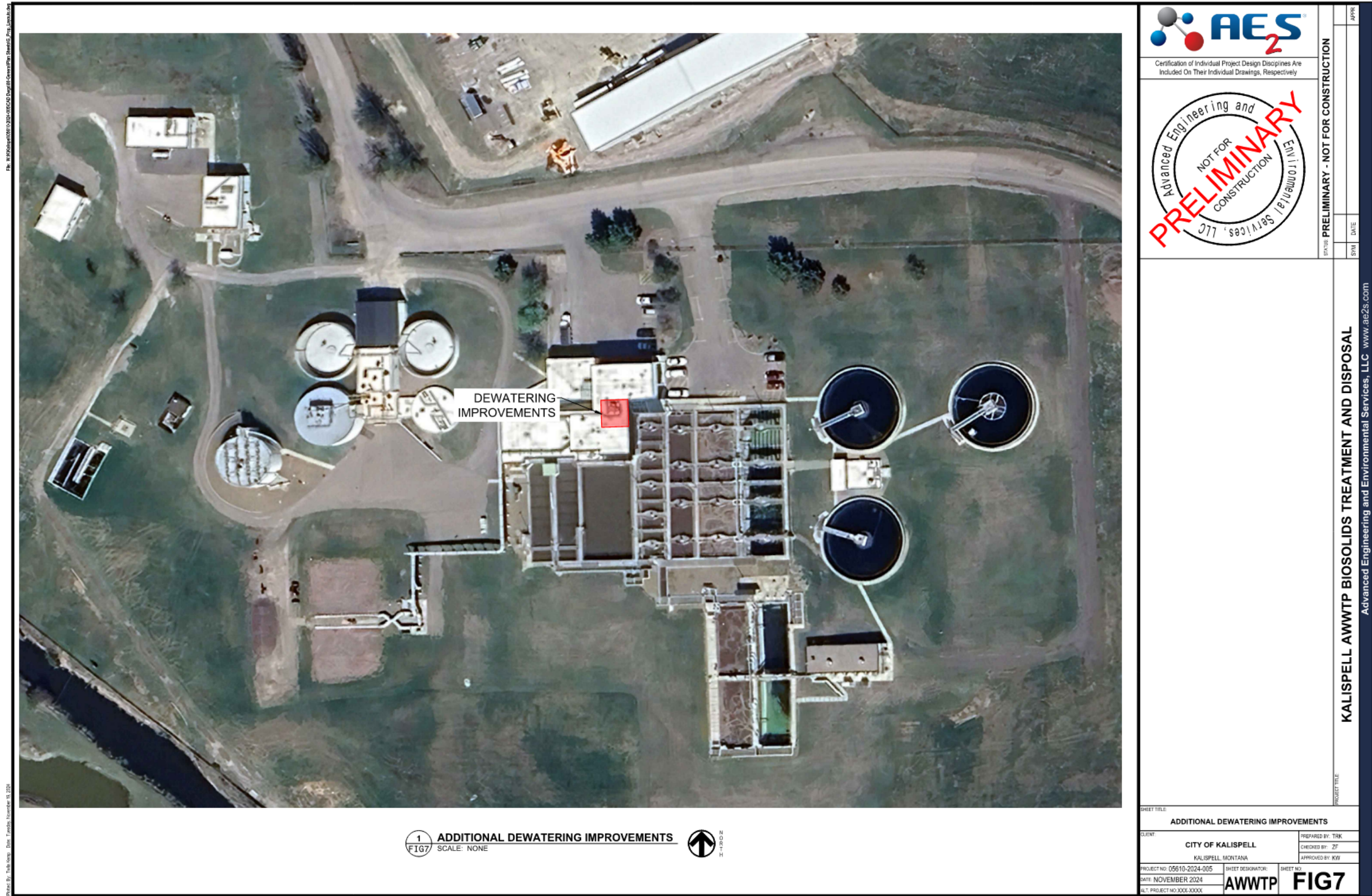


Figure 4-20 – Map of the Dewatering Improvements

CHAPTER III – ATTACHMENT D

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: Kalispell Biosolids Treatment and Disposal

Project Number: C301334

Date: 3/31/2025

Preparer: Pete Behrends, PE

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

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:

- (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:**

yes 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:

_____ 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.

PBehrend
STATE PREPARER

Michelle Marsh

STATE REVIEWER

COMPLETION DATE