



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

CITY OF DEER LODGE, MONTANA

WPCSRF #: C302292

Wastewater Collection System Phase 2

August 13, 2026

The wastewater collection system for the City of Deer Lodge (City) dates to the 1920s and is comprised of clay pipe that has excessive infiltration and inflow (I&I) due to the pipe condition and high groundwater in the City. The excessive I&I results in increased flow to the wastewater treatment facility, reducing efficiency and effectiveness. The 2020 Preliminary Engineering Report evaluated and selected preferred alternatives to reduce I&I to the City's collection system.

The Phase 2 project comprises replacement of 384 linear feet (LF) of sewer main and one manhole north of Rainbow Ave. and replacement of 285 LF of sewer main and two manholes on Clark St. north of California Ave. The project is a continuation of Phase 1 sewer replacement work that was constructed in 2024. The project will ensure safe and reliable conveyance of wastewater to the City's treatment facility, protecting public health, safety, and the environment.

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 and a map of the project are available for public review at the following locations and online at <https://deq.mt.gov/public/publicnotice>:

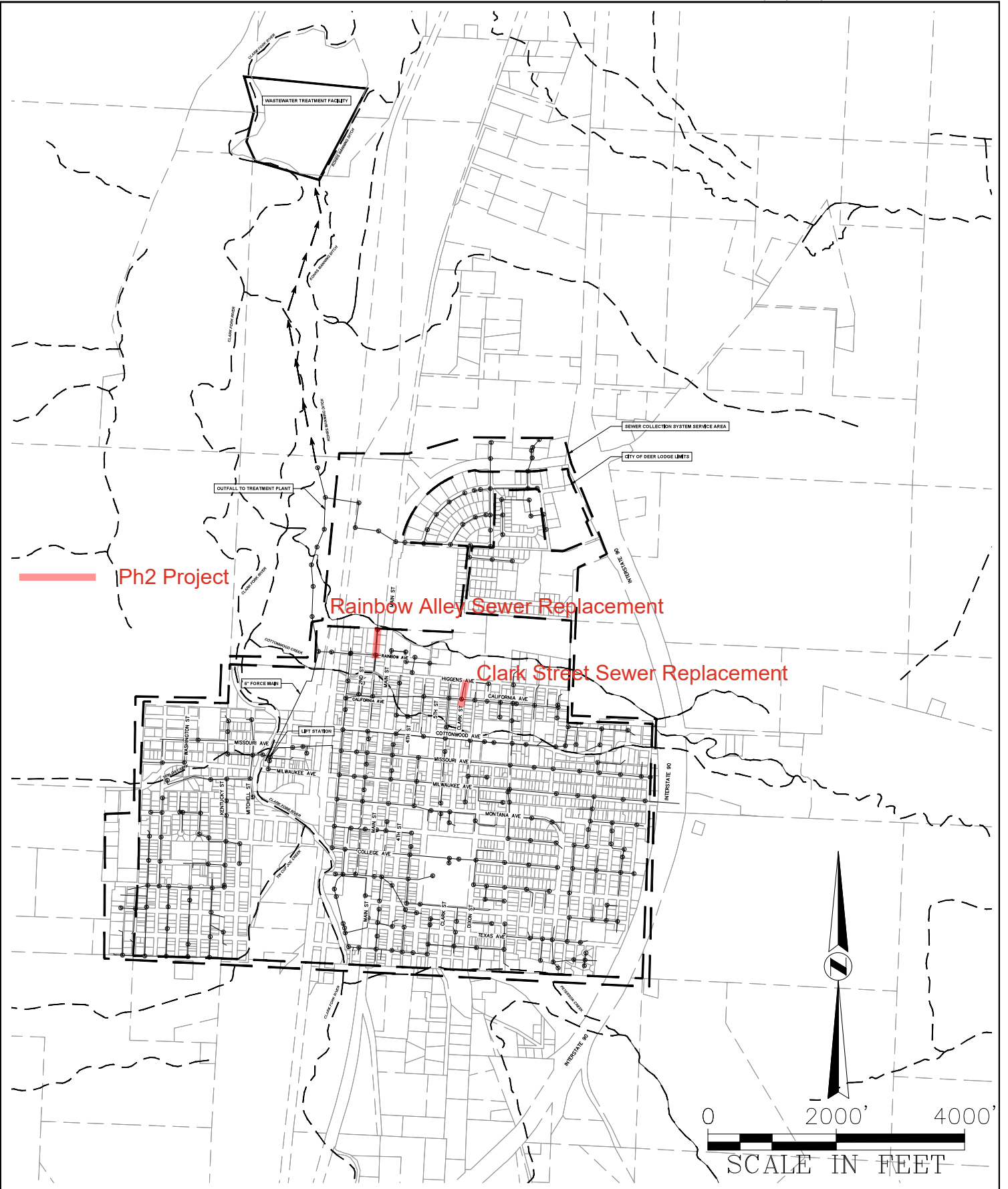
Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601
peter.behrends2@mt.gov

City of Deer Lodge
300 Main Street
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Sincerely,

Mike Abrahamson

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



STAHLY ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

www.seaeng.com

2223 MONTANA AVE.
STE. 201
BILLINGS, MT 59101
Phone: (406)601-4053
Fax: (406)601-4062

3530 CENTENNIAL DR.
HELENA, MT 59601
Phone: (406)442-8594
Fax: (406)442-8557

851 BRIDGER DR. STE. 1
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
Phone: (406)522-9526
Fax: (406)522-9528

WASTEWATER SYSTEM MAP

WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM PER

CITY OF DEER LODGE, MONTANA

DESIGNED: KT
DRAWN: RWK
CHECKED: KT
DATE: 05/20/2020

FIGURE
2.1

CHAPTER III – ATTACHMENT D

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: Deer Lodge Wastewater Collection System Ph 2

Cured in Place Pipe and open-cut sewer rehabilitation.

Project Number: C302292

Date: July 20, 2026

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).]

- no 1. minor upgrading;
- no 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.]

yes 13. Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria.

yes 14. DEQ determination of Categorical Exclusion.

yes 15. DEQ distributes the Notice of Determination.

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

pending 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.

P. Behrend
STATE PREPARER

Mike Abrahamson
STATE REVIEWER

7/20/2026
COMPLETION DATE