



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
TOWN OF DRUMMOND, MONTANA
WPCSRF #: C301322
Town of Drummond Wastewater System Improvements Project
April 8, 2025

The Town of Drummond, through its 2012 and 2022 Preliminary Engineering Reports (PERs), proposed improvements to its existing single-cell lagoon wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) to eliminate leakage and to bring it into compliance with its Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit. The existing lagoon was built in 1961 on the edge of the Clark Fork River. The lagoon's clay liner has been shown to be leaking, and likely contributing to impairment of the aquifer and adjacent river. In the early 2000s, the Town replaced and rehabilitated its entire collection system, thereby reducing infiltration and leakage. The Town is now directing its attention to the replacement of its outdated and substandard WWTF. The proposed project consists of removal of accumulated sludge and disposal by land application in accordance with EPA's 40 CFR Part 503 regulations; construction of three new lined cells within the existing lagoon footprint; addition of ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, and installation of a new influent flow meter. These improvements will improve wastewater treatment and help protect the natural environment of the Clark Fork River for bull trout and other species, as well as recreationists and downstream water users.

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>:

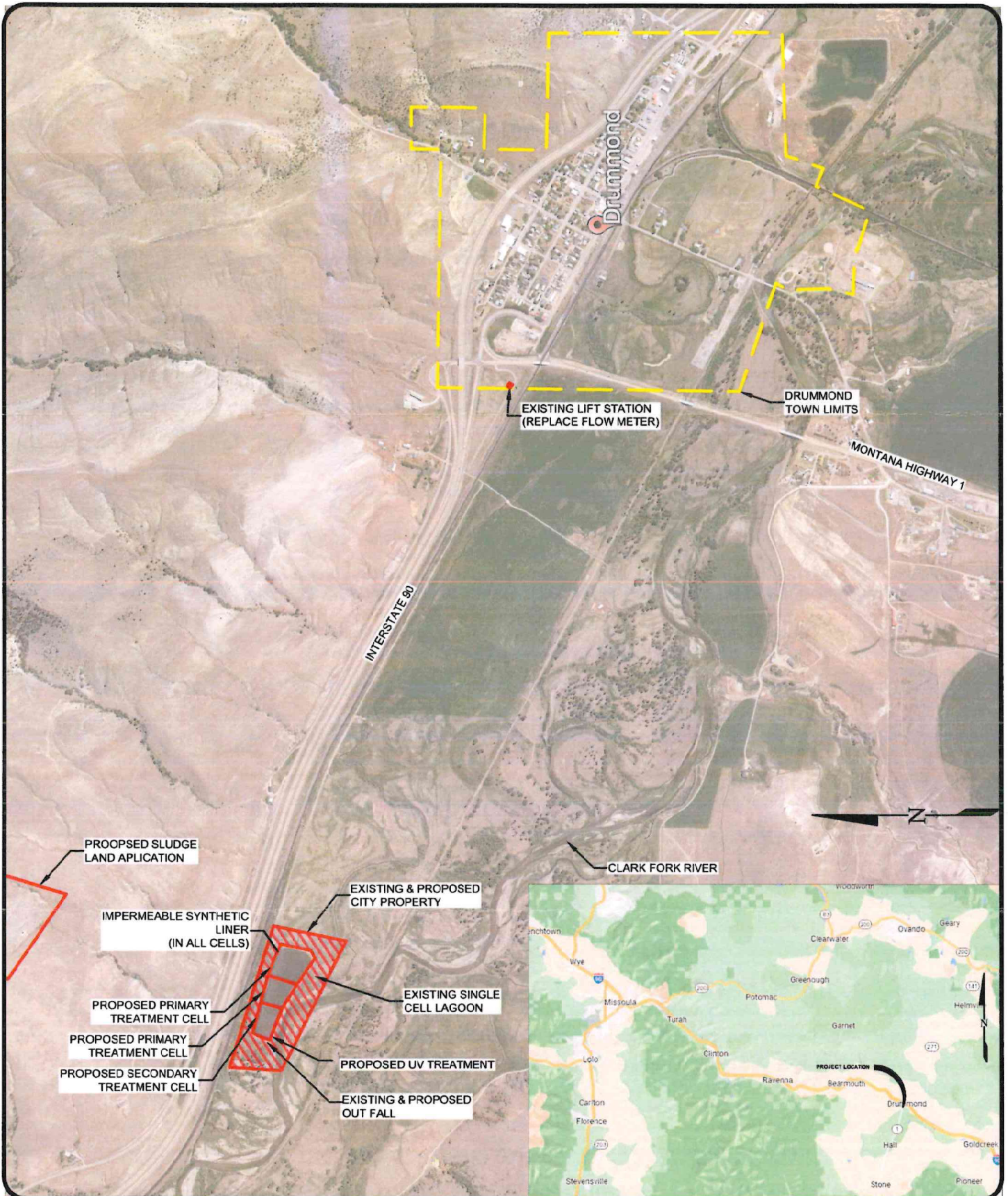
Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601

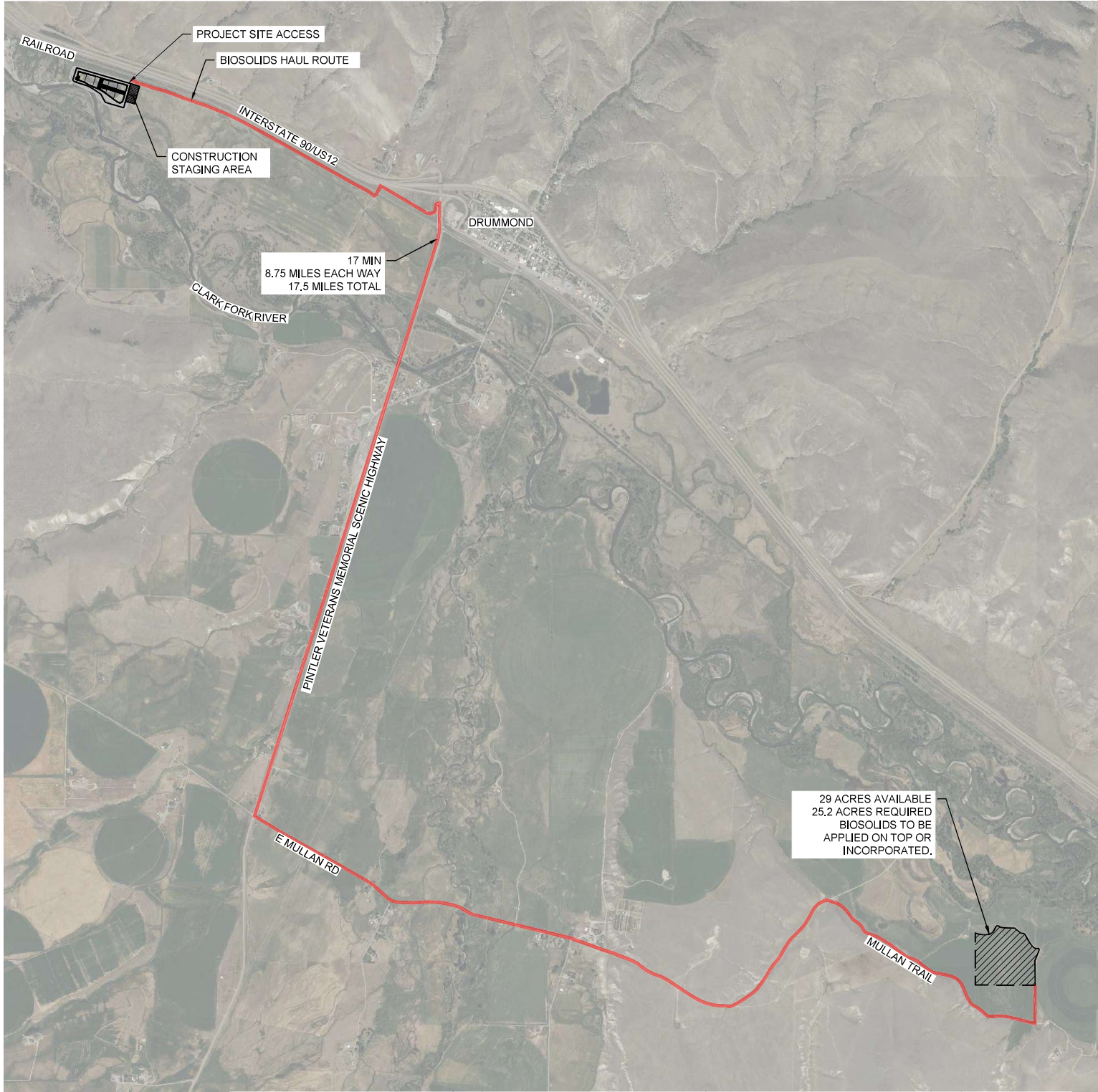
Town of Drummond
114 A Street
Drummond, MT 59832

Sincerely,

Michael Abrahamson

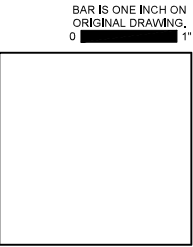
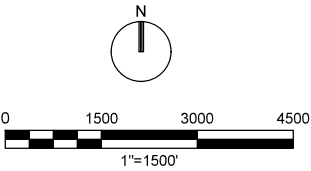
Michael Abrahamson, PE
Section Supervisor
Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Program
Engineering Bureau, Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality





BIOSOLIDS HAUL ROUTE FOR LAND APPLICATION

1" = 1500'-0"



BAR IS ONE INCH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING. 1"

SPLOTDATE		\$PLOTTIME		C-1003.dwg	
PROJECT #:		D3704800		<div><div></div><div><div>WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS</div><div>TOWN OF DRUMMOND</div><div>DRUMMOND, MT</div></div><div>CIVIL - BIOSOLIDS HAUL ROUTE FOR LAND APPLICATION</div></div>	
DRAFTED BY:		L NAGORZANSKI			
CHECKED BY:		B PILON			
DATE:		11/2024			
SHEET		C-1003			
REVISIONS					
DATE	DESCRIPTION				

CHAPTER III – ATTACHMENT D
DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: Town of Drummond Wastewater System Improvements

Project Number: C304154

Date: February 5, 2025

Preparer: Michele Marsh

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;
- yes 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.

 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.

Michele Marsh
STATE PREPARER

STATE REVIEWER

COMPLETION DATE