

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION TOWN OF FORT PECK, MONTANA WPCSRF #: C301322 Town of Fort Peck Wastewater Biosolids Land Application Project April 3, 2025

The Town of Fort Peck's public wastewater treatment plant was constructed in 1995 and consists of three facultative cells that batch-discharge to the Missouri River. Sludge has accumulated within the lagoon cells through its years of use, and current depths exceed recommended levels. This excess sludge reduces treatment capacity and detention time, releases nutrients and soluble BOD back into the water column and contributes to degradation of effluent quality. The proposed project consists of removing, dewatering, transporting, and land-applying the biosolids on a 48-acre parcel owned by the Town of Fort Peck and located approximately one mile southwest of town. Biosolids will be land applied in accordance with EPA's 40 CFR Part 303 regulations. The expected project result is improved wastewater treatment within the three lagoon cells and a decreased chance of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) permit violations during future batch discharge events.

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 <u>https://deq.mt.gov/public/publicnotice</u>:

Department of Environmental Quality State Revolving Fund Loan Program 2401 Colonial Drive Helena, MT 59601 Town of Fort Peck 125 Missouri Avenue Fort Peck, MT 59223

Sincerely,

Michael Abrahamaon

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

