

June 24, 2025

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

As required by state and federal rules for determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project	Town of Hingham
-	Wastewater Improvements
Location	Hingham, Montana
Project Number	WPCSRF Project #C303717
Total Cost	\$3,000,000

The Town of Hingham (Town), through a 2022 Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), analyzed the condition of its wastewater collection and treatment system components. It was determined that the lagoons are in poor condition, leaking wastewater and posing a contamination risk to both groundwater and public health. The lagoons are also full of sludge, structurally damaged, and contain leaking or corroded piping. TV inspections performed in 2021 revealed that while the collection mains are old and show signs of aging, they remain operable with regular maintenance. The proposed project includes replacing 830 feet of sewer main to the lagoons; removing sludge, reshaping, enlarging, and installing synthetic liner in Cell #1; and lagoon piping improvements that include a metering manhole. Cell #2 will serve as a storage cell only, with future improvements proposed when funding becomes available.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for the Town by its consultant, Robert Peccia & Associates. A Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment was published in The Havre Daily News on March 28, 2022. Public meetings for the project were held on March 8 and April 28, 2022, with advertisement in the Havre Daily News to inform the public of the time and location of the meetings. No comments were received on the draft EA. The Town approved the final EA on April 28, 2022. The EA was subsequently adopted on August 8, 2023, by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), which is providing funds for the project.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is being issued to address and publicly notice changes to the project since the EA was adopted by the DNRC. The sludge disposal site has been identified and an agreement has been signed with the landowner. Sludge will be land-applied to farmland in accordance with Federal 40 CFR Part 503 sludge disposal regulations. The land application of sludge will enhance soil conditions and provide beneficial reuse of the biosolids. This FONSI also notices that sludge removal, embankment work, and liner installation will not occur in Cell #2 in this phase of the project. All other aspects of the project were adequately covered by the EA and remain unchanged.

Federal and State grant/loan programs will fund the project. Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, and historical sites are not expected to be adversely impacted because of the proposed project. Public participation during the planning process demonstrated support for the selected alternative. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified. The EA, which describes the project and analyzes the impacts in more detail, along with a map of the sludge application site and haul route, is available for public scrutiny on the DEQ web site <u>http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea</u> and at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality 2401 Colonial Ave P.O. Box 200901 Helena, MT 59620-0901 peter.behrends2@mt.gov Town of Hingham 509 3rd St PO Box 69 Hingham, MT 59528

Comments on the FONSI may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality at the above address. After evaluating comments received, the department will revise the environmental assessment or determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary. If no substantive comments are received during the comment period, or if substantive comments are received and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant, the agency will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Sincerely,

Mike Abrahamson

Mike Abrahamson, PE WPCSRF Section Supervisor Water Quality Division Montana Department of Environmental Quality

DocuSign Envelope ID: C6E9AAF7-F538-4828-AB75-F43B4406A6AC _ NATURAL RESOURCES



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE:

FAX: (406) 444-2684

-STATE OF MONTANA

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

PO BOX 201601 HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION NOTICE ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

(406) 444-2074

Hingham Wastewater System Upgrades Phase 1 8/8/2023 Town of Hingham Hingham, MT Hill County

Existing Environmental Review Document: Town of Hingham Wastewater System Upgrades Environmental Assessment. Adopted by the Hingham Town Council on 4/28/2022. Document Available upon request.

Type and Purpose of Action

Background:

The town of Hingham's (Town) wastewater system is well past its design life and leaking significantly. It consists of old 8-inch clay gravity sewer mains that are cracking, sagging, and were installed in 1954. These mains flow to a 2-cell, clay lined total retention lagoon system that is not retaining wastewater as designed.

Scope of Work:

ARPA Water and Sewer Infrastructure Grant Funds will be used for reimbursement of eligible expenses associated with engineering services and construction. Construction related activities include the following:

- Removing the existing sludge in the lagoons
- Enlarging cells for current wastewater flows
- Lining the cells with a synthetic liner
- Replacing the inlet and connecting piping
- Removing the existing outfall structure
- Installing a flow measurement device on the lagoon inlet piping
- Installing level gauges in each cell
- Upgrading the surrounding fencing

Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices and will meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies.

Schedule:

Project Engineering Phase	Project Bidding Phase	Project Construction Phase
Expected Completion: January	Expected Completion: June	Expected Completion:
2024	2024	November 2025

DNRC will approve the grant AND/OR loan to provide funding for the Town of Hingham Wastewater System Upgrade Project.

Project Area:



Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

 \boxtimes The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.

 \boxtimes The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.

 \square The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.

 \boxtimes All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.

 \boxtimes Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort. \boxtimes The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.

 \boxtimes The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

	Name:	Seth Shteir		
Existing Analysis Reviewed By:	Title:	ARPA Grant Manager		8.8.23
noneneu by:	Email:	seth.shteir2@mt.gov	@mt.gov	
Approved By: Name: Autumn Coleman Title: Bureau Chief		utumn Coleman		
		ureau Chief		
Signature: Autumn Columan		Date: 8/18/2023	1:15:06 PM MDT	

-077FC22FC836461...

Environmental Checklist

HINGHAM WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS HINGHAM, MONTANA

Proposed Action: The Town of Hingham's wastewater system consists of old 8-inch clay gravity sewer mains that were installed in 1954. These mains flow to a 2-cell, clay-lined total retention lagoon system. Cell #1 was constructed in 1954, and Cell #2 was constructed in 1963.

The average water usage flows from the 2021 and 2014 Lagoon Operation and Maintenance Reports, conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) suggest the lagoons are undersized and should be overtopping. However, Cell #1 is nearly dry and Cell #2 is completely dry which means wastewater is leaking out of the lagoons and collection system mains at a high rate. The existing clay liner dries out and cracks with changing water levels, damage, leakage, burrowing animals, wind, and sun. Vegetation and animal burrows around the lagoons are also causing erosion, cracks, and leakage at the lagoons.

A significant build-up (approximately 2 feet) of sludge has accumulated in both cells. Excess sludge reduces the treatment capacity of the total retention system and needs to be removed.

The outfall structure and piping in Cell #2 leaks significantly when water levels get too high. The piping at the lagoons is corrugated steel pipe (CMP) and coming apart at the joints. Exposure to the wastewater has caused severe corrosion and leaking. The existing connector pipe for the lagoons is old cement-asbestos pipe that needs to be replaced. Approximately 300 feet of inlet PVC was installed at the inlet to Cell #1 in the winter of 2021 to mitigate an emergency repair of the original corrugated steel pipe. This pipe was layed with shallow bury to stay above the sludge in Cell #1 and does not have sufficient cover for freeze protection. This work to replace the pipe was done with an excavator and damaged the clay liner in Cell #1 and causing significant leakage.

The gravity sewer mains are aging and are not only showing signs of leakage and broken sections of pipe, but also several of the sewer mains are blocked due to tree root intrusion, which can cause the system to backup into homes.

The proposed improvements for the Hingham Wastewater System include:

- Removal of excess sludge from both cells and disposal by land application;
- Replacement of piping at lagoons;
- Removal of lagoon outlet structure and outfall piping;
- Reshaping, resizing, and re-lining both Cells;
- Installation of a level gauge in each Cell;
- Installation of a lagoon influent flow measurement:
- Installation of manholes; and
- Replacement or rehabilitation with CIPP lining of the 8-inch sewer mains based on inspection.

Physical			
Environment			
Impact Code	Impact Type	Permits/ Mitigation Required?	Explanation of Impact to Resource
1. Soil Suitabil	ity, Topographic	and/or Geologi	ic Constraints (example: soil slump, steep slopes,
subsidence, se	ismic activity)		
No Impact Beneficial Adverse	DirectIndirectCumulative	 Permit Mitigation NA 	Current Conditions: Currently, there are no unsuitable soils, topographic, and/or geologic constraints in the project area.
			No soils, topographic, or geological conditions are likely to affect the Hingham wastewater project.
explosive and fuel storage tanks, No Impact Beneficial Adverse	flammable hazar and related facil Direct Indirect Cumulative	ities such as na Permit Mitigation NA	emical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground tural gas storage facilities and propane storage tanks) <u>Current Conditions:</u> According to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's <i>Discover DEQ</i> web mapping (https://gis.mtdeq.us/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.h tml?id =f554f421c3e64f5599e76b5cb8dd3391), hazardous waste sites are located near the project area. These sites include: Montana State Superfund ACGP Facility – Cargill General Mills Hingham Elevator. Montana State Superfund WQA Facility – BN Sante Fe Hingham. Petroleum Release Sites – Four (4) petroleum release sites are located within the project planning area and all have been resolved. <u>Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:</u> While there are hazardous waste sites listed in the project area, there are no known hazardous waste sites located within the project plane sites located
			 hazardous material is anticipated as part of this project. If previously unknown contaminants are encountered during construction, MDEQ would be notified and the materials would be removed and disposed of properly. The project will have no involvement with main electrical transmission lines.

3. Surrounding	g Air Quality (exa	mple: dust, odo	ors, emissions)
Surrounding No Impact Beneficial	 Air Quality (exa Direct Indirect Cumulative 	Permit Mitigation	Current Conditions: Air quality within the proposed Hingham wastewater improvements project area can be described as good. No violations of state or federal air quality standards are known. The proposed action is located in an unclassifiable/attainment area for air quality under 40 CFR 81.327, as amended. Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project may result in a temporary increase in air quality in construction zones. This impact will be short-terms and ensure the temporary where
			term and generally confined to the area where construction equipment is operating. Mitigation. The application of water or chemicals to control dust in areas subject to heavy vehicle traffic can be included, if deemed necessary, during the construction of the project. Newly disturbed areas would be promptly reseeded or restored when construction activities are completed.
4. Groundwater	er Resources and	Aquifers (exan	nple: quantity, quality, distribution, depth to
No Impact Beneficial	 ☑ Direct ☑ Indirect ☑ Cumulative 	 Permit Mitigation NA 	Current Conditions:The Town of Hingham's public water is supplied by two groundwater wells and an elevated storage tank.Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The wastewater improvements project will eliminate infiltration of the groundwater into the collection system as well as potential groundwater contamination from the collection system and the treatment system.
5. Surface Wat	ter/Water Quality	y, Quantity and	Distribution (example: streams, lakes, storm runoff,
Irrigation system □ No Impact ⊠ Beneficial □ Adverse	ems, canals)	 Permit Mitigation NA 	Current Conditions:The surface water resources in the vicinity of the projectEngland Coulee which is an intermittent drainage thatoriginates north of Hingham and flows southeast on theeast edge of TownPreferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:Replacement of the failing sewer mains andimprovements to the lagoons will prevent sewageoverflow and possible contamination to nearby surfacewaters.Construction activities will temporarily disturb soil andcould increase the potential for erosion and transport ofsediments to surface waters.

			Permitting: Storm Water Discharge Permit. If construction disturbs more than 1 acre, a General Discharge Permit for Discharges from Construction Activities under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) must be obtained. As a requirement of the Storm Water Discharge Permit, a Notice of Intent (NOI) form including a storm water erosion control plan specifying the measures that would be employed during construction to control erosion and sediment transport by storm runoff must be prepared and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. A storm water discharge permit would be obtained by the contractor. Mitigation. Measures to control runoff and erosion from disturbed areas will be required of the Contractor to minimize potential water quality impacts during construction.
6. Floodplains	and Floodplain N	lanagement (lo	dentify any floodplains within one mile of the
boundary of the project.)		
No Impact	Direct	🛛 Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	Indirect	Mitigation	Flood Insurance Rate Mapping (FIRM) for Lincoln County
Adverse	Cumulative 🛛	□ NA	of the project are located in special flood hazard areas.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Regional Engineer Marc Pitman was contacted on March 4, 2022. A response dated March 25, 2022 stated The Hingham Wastewater System Planning Area Boundary appears to be in the mapped floodplain on FIRM 30041C. Usually with buried infrastructure projects floodplain permitting is not an issue. However, please coordinate with the Hill County floodplain administrator Amy Ferguson. Permits: A Floodplain Development Permit would be
			required for any modifications to the embankment at the wastewater lagoon site. The Permit must be obtained from Hill County's Floodplain Administrator prior to any construction activities.
7. Wetlands (I potential impacts.)	dentify any wetla	inds within one	e mile of the boundary of the project and state
 No Impact Beneficial Adverse 	☑ Direct☑ Indirect☑ Cumulative	 Permit Mitigation NA 	<u>Current Conditions:</u> According to the National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper, various wetlands are located within 1 mile of the proposed project.

			Durfe much Alternative Free increases to I Manustices		
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:		
			impacted as part of this project		
			impacted as part of this project.		
8. Agricultural primeor uniqu within one	8. Agricultural Lands, Production, and Farmland Protection (example: grazing, forestry, cropland, primeor unique agricultural lands) Identify any prime or important farm ground or forest lands within one				
mile of the bol	undary of the pro	oject.			
 ☑ No Impact ☑ Beneficial ☑ Adverse 	 Direct Indirect Cumulative 	 Permit Mitigation NA 	Current Conditions: The proposed project is located in an area that is classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance and Prime Farmland if irrigated.		
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was advised of this project by letter dated March 4, 2022. There has been no response as of this writing. While a majority of the improvements will occur on land that has already irreversibly converted, the wastewater lagoons will convert some farmland. A farmland conversion impact rating form will need to be completed when lagoons are expanded.		
9. Vegetation	and Wildlife Spec	ies and Habita	ts, Including Fish (example: terrestrial, avian and		
aquatic					
life and habita	ts)				
🛛 No Impact	🗵 Direct	🗖 Permit	Current Conditions:		
 Beneficial Adverse 	 ☑ Indirect ☑ Cumulative 	 ☑ Mitigation ☑ NA 	Typical wildlife species in the area include species that have largely adapted to urban settings including rabbits, skunks, squirrels, and various other rodents. Birds observed in the project area include the American Robin, Blue Jay, Common Raven, European Starling, House Finch, House Sparrow, Killdeer, Northern Flicker, and the Northern Shoveler.		
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: This project would not cause any long-term adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitat since work is confined to previously disturbed areas within the Town. Short- term impacts on small mammals and bird species may occur during construction. Temporary displacement due to noise or construction activities could affect such species.		
			The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) was contacted on March 4, 2022 regarding potential impacts on wildlife and fisheries resources. There has been no response as of this writing.		
			Mitigation. The Contractor will be required to implement erosion control measures and surface areas disturbed by construction will be promptly re-vegetated where needed.		

10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered				
Species				
(example: plants, fish or wildlife)				
🖂 No Impact	🖾 Direct	🗆 Permit	Current Conditions:	
Beneficial	🛛 Indirect	Mitigation	The following paragraphs discuss unique, endangered,	
Adverse	🛛 Cumulative	🖂 NA	fragile, or limited environmental resources in the project	
			area:	
			• Threatened or Endangered Wildlife - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was contacted on March 4, 2022 regarding the presence of threatened or endangered species in the project area. There has been no comment as of this writing. According to the Department's online Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website for information on the project area, one candidate species (Monarch Butterfly) may occur in the project area. No migratory birds are listed as occurring the project area. There is no designated critical habitat in the project area.	
			 Threatened or Endangered Plants - There are two federally-listed threatened plant species in Montana: Spalding's Catchfly and Ute Ladies'-tress. The USFWS does not list any of these species within the project area. 	
			• Species of Special Interest or Concern - The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists 4 animal species of concern and no plant species of concern that have been observed within the QQLL 06B3 which includes the project area.	
			 Sage Grouse - According to the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Map, the project is not located in sage grouse habitat designated as core, general, connectivity habitats or BLM priority areas. Therefore, no further coordination regarding sage grouse is required. 	
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: Based on the nature, scope, and location of the recommended improvements, no adverse impacts to unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources are expected.	
11. Unique Na	tural Features (e	kample: geolog	ic features)	
No ImpactBeneficialAdverse	☑ Direct☑ Indirect☑ Cumulative	PermitMitigationNA	Current Conditions: There are no known unique natural features located in the project area.	
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: There are no known unique natural features that are anticipated to be impacted as a result of this project.	

12. Access to, (including Fee	and Quality of, Red	ecreational and ed Wild & Scer	d Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways nic Rivers), and Public Open Space
			Current Conditions:
			Access to recreational and wilderness activities public
			land and waterways, and public open spaces do occur in
Adverse			the project area.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative
			The project will not affect access to and quality of
			recreational and wilderness activities, public lands and
			waterways, and public open spaces.
		I	Human
	1	Env	vironment
		Permits/	
		Mitigation	
Impact Code	Impact Type	Required?	Explanation of Impact to Resource
1. Visual Quali	ty – Coherence, I	Diversity, Comp	batibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics
🛛 No Impact	🛛 Direct	🗆 Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	🛛 Indirect	Mitigation	The project would have no long-term adverse effects on
Adverse	Cumulative	🖾 NA	the visual quality of the area.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative
			Land surfaces would be temporarily disturbed during
			construction but will be returned to pre-project conditions
			after construction.
2. Nuisances (example: glare, fi	umes)	-
🛛 No Impact	🖾 Direct	🗖 Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	☑ Indirect ☑ Cumulative	Mitigation	There are currently no nuisances in the project area.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:
			There are no anticipated nuisances associated with the
			project.
3 Noise – Suit	able Senaration (Between Housi	ng and Other Noise Sensitive Activities and Major
Noise			
Sources (exam	ple: aircraft, high	ways and railr	oads.)
🛛 No Impact	⊠ Direct	🔲 Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	🛛 Indirect	Mitigation	Inere is currently suitable separation between nousing
Adverse	🛛 Cumulative	⊠ NA	and other noise sensitive activities within the project area.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:
			Temporary increases in noise would be expected during
			the construction of the project. Such impacts would be
			localized to the area of construction and short-term in
			nature.

4. Historic Pro	perties, Cultural,	and Archaeolo	gical Resources
No Impact Beneficial Adverse	 ☑ Direct ☑ Indirect ☑ Cumulative 	 Permit Mitigation NA 	Current Conditions:The Montana State Historic Preservation Office was contacted on March 4, 2022 for information regarding previous cultural resource surveys completed and for a listing of previously recording historical and archaeological sites in the project area.Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: In correspondence dated March 9, 2022, SHPO stated that any structure over fifty years of age is considered historic
5. Changes in I	Demographic (Po	pulation) Chara	acteristics (example: quantity, distribution, density)
No Impact Beneficial Adverse	 Direct Indirect Cumulative 	 Permit Mitigation NA 	<u>Current Conditions:</u> Changes in demographic characteristics is not anticipated. <u>Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:</u> The project will not have a major impact on the location, distribution, density or growth rate of the area's population. The project would not adversely affect any social or ethnic groups and will not isolate or divide existing residential areas.
6. General Ho	using Conditions	– Quality, Quar	ntity, Affordability
No Impact Beneficial	☑ Direct☑ Indirect☑ Cumulative	 Permit Mitigation NA 	<u>Current Conditions:</u> Housing conditions vary in the vicinity of the project. <u>Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:</u> The project will not have any impact on general housing conditions in the project area including quality, quantity, and affordability.
7. Businesses	or Residents (exa	mple: loss of, d	lisplacement, or relocation)
No Impact Beneficial	☑ Direct☑ Indirect☑ Cumulative	 Permit Mitigation NA 	<u>Current Conditions:</u> The project is located in a residential and commercial area of Hingham. <u>Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:</u> The project would not displace or relocate any businesses or residents in the Hingham area.

8. Public Healt	h and Safety		
 No Impact Beneficial Adverse 	 ☑ Direct ☑ Indirect ☑ Cumulative 	 Permit Mitigation NA 	Current Conditions: The wastewater collection and treatment systems are leaking untreated wastewater into the surrounding soils
			and groundwater and poses a significant health and safety risk to the area residents.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The proposed improvements to the Town's wastewater
			of wastewater contaminating the areas soils and groundwater that poses a significant public health and safety risk to Town residents.
9. Local Emplo	yment – Quantit	y or Distributio	n of Employment, Economic Impact
🛛 No Impact	⊠ Direct	Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	☑ Indirect ☑ Cumulative	☐ Mitigation X NA	Construction of the project will temporarily create jobs and the need for local goods and services.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:
			Completion of the project will not cause any long-term changes in local employment.
10 Incomo Do	ttorne Economi	ic Impact	
No Impact			Current Conditions:
	X Indirect	Mitigation	Construction of the project will result in short-term
Adverse	Cumulative	⊠ NA	economic benefits to the Town of Hingham.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:
			Completion of the project will not cause any long-term
			changes in income pattern in the area.
11. Local and S	State Tax Base an	d Revenues	
🛛 No Impact	🗵 Direct	🗆 Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	🛛 Indirect	Mitigation	The project will benefit the Town of Hingham's local tax
Adverse	🛛 Cumulative	🖾 NA	base and revenues as well at the State's
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:
			The project will allow the Town's sewer system to operate
			efficiently and continue to serve the Town's current and
			future tax base.
12. Communit	y and Governme	nt Services and	I Facilities (example: educational facilities; health and
medical servic	es and facilities;	police; emerge	ncy medical services; and parks, playgrounds and
open			
Space)		Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	X Indirect	Mitigation	Community and Government Services and Facilities are
Adverse	Cumulative	⊠ NA	located in the project area.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:
			The project will not adversely affect any educational
			facilities, health and medical services and facilities, police,

	1		
			emergency medical services, or parks, playgrounds and open spaces.
13. Commerci	al and Industrial I	Facilities – Proc	luction and Activity, Growth or Decline
No Impact		D Permit	Current Conditions:
		Mitigation	Commercial and industrial facilities are located in the
			project area.
Auverse			1
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:
			The project will not affect existing commercial or
			industrial facilities nor affect the production of such
			facilities.
14. Social Stru	ctures and Mores	s (example: sta	ndards of social conduct/social conventions)
🛛 No Impact	Direct	L Permit	<u>Current Conditions:</u>
Beneficial		Mitigation	social structures can include culture, social class, social status, roles, groups, and social institutions
Adverse	🛛 Cumulative	🖾 NA	status, roles, groups, and social institutions.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative
			The project will not affect social structures or community
			mores.
15. Land Use C	Compatibility (exa	ample: growth,	land use change, development activity, adjacent land
uses and pote	ntial conflicts)		
🛛 No Impact	🛛 Direct	🗆 Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	🛛 Indirect	Mitigation	Existing land use in the project area is a mix of residential
Adverse	🛛 Cumulative	🖾 NA	and commercial businesses.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:
			No major changes in land use within the project area is
			expected. Any new developments within the community
			is subject to existing land use plans and land use controls.
16. Energy Res	sources – Consum	ption and Con	servation
🛛 No Impact	🗵 Direct	🗆 Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	Indirect	Mitigation	The project is not expected to impact energy resources.
Adverse	🖾 Cumulative	🖾 NA	Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative
			There will be no long-lasting adverse impacts on the
			energy supply of the area. Energy use would increase for
			a short time during construction of the project due to the
			need for construction equipment.
17. Solid Wast	e Management		
🛛 No Impact	🗵 Direct	🗖 Permit	Current Conditions:
Beneficial	🛛 Indirect	Mitigation	Solid waste management occurs within the Town of
Adverse	🛛 Cumulative	🖾 NA	Hingham.
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative
			The project would not affect the generation or
			management of solid waste within the community
			handbeinent of solid waste within the community.

18. Wastewater Treatment – Sewage System						
18. Wastewate No Impact Beneficial Adverse	er Treatment – Se	Permit Mitigation NA	Current Conditions:Sewer mains in the project area are aging and are showingsigns of cracking, leakage, sags, offset joints, and brokensections of pipe. Several of the sewer mains are blockeddue to sags and tree root intrusion, which can cause thesystem to backup into homes and need for root cuttingand jetting of the mains on a frequent basis.Emergency inlet piping repairs to Cell #1 and animalburrows around the lagoons have caused damage,erosion, cracks, and leakage at the lagoons.There is an outfall structure and piping in Cell #2 that leakssignificantly when water levels get too high.The clay-liner for both cells have been routinely exposeddue to low water levels and are cracked and leaking.Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:Replacement of these sewer mains will eliminate thepossible infiltration of groundwater into the collectionsystem as well as the potential for groundwatercontamination from the collection system. Reducinggroundwater infiltration to the collection system, whichwill reduce the amount of groundwater conveyed to thetreatment facility. Reducing the amount of groundwatercoming into the wastewater treatment facility willimprove treatment efficiency.			
			Town to continue to use the total retention system for			
10 Storm Wot	or Surface Drai	222	wastewater treatment.			
19. Storm Wat No Impact Beneficial Adverse	Er – Surface Drai	nage ☐ Permit ☐ Mitigation ⊠ NA	<u>Current Conditions:</u> The Town's stormwater conveyance system includes roads with drainage systems, gutters, and ditches. <u>Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:</u> The project will have no long-term effects on storm water and surface drainage in the area.			
20. Community Water Supply						
 No Impact Beneficial Adverse 	 ☑ Direct ☑ Indirect ☑ Cumulative 	 Permit Mitigation NA 	Current Conditions: Leaking sewer mains and lagoon liner will allow untreated wastewater to contaminate the surrounding soils and groundwater. <u>Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:</u> The reduction of leaking untreated wastewater into the surrounding soils by leaking sewer lagoon liner will prevent the nearby community groundwater wells from becoming contaminated.			

21. Fire Protec	21. Fire Protection – Hazards					
🛛 No Impact	🛛 Direct	🗆 Permit	Current Conditions:			
Beneficial	🛛 Indirect	Mitigation	The Town of Hingham provides fire protection to local			
Adverse	🛛 Cumulative	🖾 NA	residents.			
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative			
			The project would have no effect on the Town's fire			
			protection system or limit the community's fire-			
			fighting capabilities.			
22. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity						
No Impact	⊠ Direct	Permit	<u>Current Conditions:</u>			
Beneficial	⊠ Indirect	Mitigation	There are no cultural facilities within the project area.			
🔲 Adverse		🖾 NA	Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:			
			The project would not affect cultural facilities or the			
			cultural uniqueness and diversity of Hingham or Hill			
			County.			
22 Tropper orte		d Troffic Flow	Caufiista (avampla, mail, auto including local traffic,			
23. Transporta	ition Networks a	nd Traffic Flow	Conflicts (example: rall; auto including local traffic;			
			Current Conditions:			
		Mitigation	Construction of the recommended improvements may			
Adverse	Cumulative		cause temporary disturbances to vehicle traffic on local			
			streets and roads in the area.			
			Desferred Alberts Alberts Free instruments Alberts Alberts			
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:			
			alternate routes within the community are available and			
			that work areas are marked to ensure that local traffic is			
			safely accommodate during construction.			
24. Consistence	y with Local Ordi	nances, Resolu	tions, or Plans (example: conformance with local			
comprenensiv	e plans, zoning, c	or capital impro	Current Conditions			
		Permit Mitigation	The project is consistent with the Town of Hingham's local			
			ordinances, resolutions, and plans.			
Auverse						
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:			
			The project would not conflict with any other local			
			ordinances, resolutions, or plans.			
25. Private Pro	perty Rights (eva	ample: a regula	tory action or project activity that reduces			
minimizes. or	eliminates the us	e of private pro	operty.)			
No Impact	⊠ Direct	Permit	Current Conditions:			
□ Beneficial	⊠ Indirect	□ Mitigation	The project would not involve the use of private property.			
□ Adverse	🖂 Cumulative	⊠ NA				
			Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:			
			The project will not involve any regulatory actions that			
			would affect private property rights.			

26. Environmental Justice (example: does the project avoid placing lower income households in							
areas where environmental degradation has occurred, such as adjacent to brownfield sites?)							
☑ No Impact☑ Beneficial☑ Adverse	 ☑ Direct ☑ Indirect ☑ Cumulative 	 Permit Mitigation NA 	Current Conditions:The project is not located in any area where environmental degradation occurs.Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative: The project will avoid placing lower income households in areas where environmental degradation has occurred.				
27. Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos (example: does the project replace asbestos-lined pipes? Do							
any structures	qualify as contain	ining lead-base	d paint?)				
 No Impact Beneficial Adverse 	 ☑ Direct ☑ Indirect ☑ Cumulative 	 Permit Mitigation NA 	Current Conditions:Asbestos-containing materials are any materials such asbuildings, manholes, water and sewer mains, etc. thatcontain more than 1 percent asbestos.Lead-based paint is not known to occur in the projectarea.Preferred Alternative Environmental Narrative:The project will include an asbestos identificationinspection be completed in order to determine if there areany asbestos-containing materials that will beencountered during the project. If asbestos-containingmaterials are encountered, the materials would beremoved and properly disposed of by an asbestosabatement certified contractor.Lead-based paint will not be included in the projectcomponents.				

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

1. <u>ALTERNATIVES</u>: Describe reasonable alternatives to the project.

Below describe the alternatives that were also considered for the Hingham wastewater system improvements and the reasons why these alternatives were rejected.

Treatment System Alternatives

- **Treatment System Alternative 1 No Action.** This no action alternative for the treatment system does not address was <u>eliminated from consideration</u> because it does not address the issues within the wastewater treatment system.
- Treatment System Alternative 2 Upgrade facultative lagoons with land application by spray irrigation. This alternative includes replacing the existing total retention lagoons with facultative lagoons with land application by spray irrigation. Although this alternative would require small ponds for treatment and storage than total retention, a significant amount of additional land for irrigating a crop would be required and there currently is not land available for the irrigation site without pumping a significant distance. This alternative was not selected due to the high costs for pumping and purchasing land suitable for this alternative, and land availability around the lagoon site.
- Treatment System Alternative 3 Upgrade total retention facultative lagoons by resizing and lining with clay liner. Similar to Alternative 4 (synthetic liner), this alternative includes removing sludge, resizing lagoons to meet current design standards, and relining ponds with clay liner. Although this alternative is an option, industry standards for lining lagoons has moved to synthetic liners due to cost and ability to handle changes in water levels without damaging the liner. Clay liners must be kept moist without drying out or they will crack. Since there is potential for leakage in the sewer collection system mains as well, this alternative was ruled out because the town could end up with the same leakage problem at the lagoons.

Collection System Alternatives – Phase 2

- Collection System Alternative 1 No-Action. This no-action alternative for the collection system improvements was <u>eliminated from consideration</u> because it does not address the issues within the wastewater collection system.
- **Collection System Alternative 2 Pipe Bursting.** This alternative for the collection system improvements was <u>eliminated from consideration</u> because it does not fix grade problems or sags and services having be open dug to be reinstated adding costs to the project and making this alternative more expensive.
- Collection System Alternative 4 Open Dig. This alternative for the collection system requires open digging mains and services, and surface restoration that is more expensive and invasive than the (Cured-In-Place-Pipe) CIPP lining option.

2. <u>MITIGATION</u>: Identify any enforceable measures necessary to reduce any impacts to an insignificant level.

Employing erosion control measures is especially important in areas adjacent to surface waters where construction activities could occur adjacent to streams and riparian areas. Measures to control runoff and erosion from disturbed areas will be required of the Contractor to minimize potential water quality impacts during construction.

The application of water or chemicals to control dust in areas subject to heavy vehicle traffic can be included, if deemed necessary, during the construction of the wastewater system improvements. Newly disturbed areas would be promptly reseeded or restored when construction activities are completed.

If cultural resources are encountered during construction of the recommended improvements, work will be suspended in the area so the significance of the material can be investigated. A cultural resources survey will be completed if required by SHPO.

Construction of the recommended improvements may cause temporary disturbances to vehicle traffic on local streets and roads. However, traffic control plans will be implemented to ensure that alternate routes within the community are available and that work areas are marked to ensure that local traffic is safely accommodated during construction.

3. <u>IS AN EA OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) REQUIRED?</u> Describe whether or not an EA or EIS is required and explain in detail why or why not.

The recommended wastewater system improvements do not have any significant environmental impacts or require significant mitigation. Therefore, this environmental checklist is adequate according to the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

4. **<u>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</u>**: Describe the process followed to involve the public in the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts. Identify the public meetings – where and when—the project was considered and discussed, and when the Town approved the final environmental assessment.

A public meeting was held on March 8th, 2022 and again on April 28th, 2022 to inform the public of the recommended improvements and any potential environmental impacts as well as to receive comments on the recommended improvements. The public meeting held on March 8th was advertised in the Havre Daily News on February 28th and March 7th, 2022 and the public meeting held on April 28th was advertised in the Havre Daily News on April 20th and April 27th to inform the public of the time and location of the meeting. A newsletter was sent out to all utility users as a way to notify the community on possible changes to the wastewater system and inform users of the April 28th, 2022 public meeting on the project.

A notice of the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment was advertised in the Havre Daily News on March 28th and April 11th, 2022 and the public was given a 30-day comment period.

There were no comments received on the draft Environmental Assessment. The Hingham Town Council approved the Final Environmental Assessment on April 28th, 2022.

 PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING: Identify the person(s) responsible for preparation of this checklist.

The person(s) responsible for preparation of this checklist include:

- Trisha Bodlovic, Project Designer, Robert Peccia & Associates
- Chris Hayes, P.E, Assistant Group Manager, Robert Peccia & Associates

otential water quality impacts during construction.

6. OTHER AGENCIES: List any state, local, or federal agencies that have over-lapping or additional jurisdiction or environmental review responsibility for the proposed action and the permits, licenses, and other authorizations required; and list any agencies or groups that were contacted or contributed information to this Environmental Assessment (EA).

The following agencies were contacted about the recommended improvements and for any comments and permitting requirements they may have on the improvements:

cultural resources survey will be completed if required by SHPO.

 Montana Department of Environmental Quality; General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Joint Application for Work in MT Streams, Wetlands, Floodplains and Other Water Bodies.
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.
 - Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Floodplain Development
 - Permitting and Water Rights.
 State Historic Preservation Office.
 - State Historic Preservation Office.
 - Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Authorized Representative Date

A public moding was hald on March 6th 2022 and any potential environmental impacts as well shiT public of the recommended improvements and any potential environmental impacts as well shiT to receive commended improvements. The public meeting hald on March 16, 2022 and the public meeting hald on April 28th was advertised in the Havre Daily News on February 28th and March 16, 2022 and the public meeting hald on April 28th was advertised in the Havre Daily News on April 20² and April 271th to inform the public of the time and interaction of the meeting. A newsletter was sent out to all utility users as a way to notify the community on possible opening to the westerwater system and inform users of the April 28th. 2022 outplic meeting on the westerwater system.

A notice of the availability of the Dreft Environmental Assessment was advertised in the Havra Daily News on March 28th and April 11th, 2022 and the public was given a 30-day commant period.

There were no comments received on the draft Environmental Assessment, The Hingham Town Council approved the Final Environmental Assessment on April 28th, 2022.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE DETERMINATION THAT AN ENVIORNMENTAL ASSESSMENT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE TOWN OF HINGHAM WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Resolution No. 205

WHEREAS, the Town of Hingham, Montana commissioned Robert Peccia & Associates to prepare a Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report, an Environmental Checklist, and an Environmental Assessment (EA)to identify potential environmental impacts in response to the wastewater system improvements project;

WHEREAS, the Town of Hingham has considered all substantive comments received in response to the draft EA at the formally-advertise comment period and public meeting;

WHEREAS, THE Town of Hingham has determined that the wastewater system improvements project will not significantly affect the quality of the human environmental and accordingly the Town of Hingham has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council that the Town of Hingham adopts the final Environmental Assessment for the wastewater improvements project.

Signed: Name:

28-20

Name: Thomas Peterson Title: Mayor

Date:

Attested:

Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

The Town of Hingham will be applying for funding from the Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP) for its upcoming Wastewater Improvements Project. As part of the application requirements by MCEP, an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for this project. This notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment for public review and comment.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the proposed improvements to Town's wastewater facilities and request comments or suggestions that would avoid any major impacts and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review at Robert Peccia & Associates, P.O. Box 5653, Helena, MT 59604. Any person interested in commenting on this Environmental Assessment should submit comments to Trisha Bodlovic at the above address by April 27th, 2022.

Published in The Havre Daily News March 28, April 11, 2022 MNAXLP

76.00 **Publication Fees \$**

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MONTANA, · SS. County of Hill

Jodene Leeds of said County and State, being first duly sworn, upon oath, says: That she is the Office Manager at Havre, Montana, of the Havre Daily News, LLC., a Montana corporation, which is the printer of The Havre Daily News, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Havre, in said County and State, and has been so published during the times hereinafter mentioned; that The Havre Daily News has complied with all the requirements of the laws of Montana relating to publication of legal newspapers;

Town of Hengha that the advertisement of Converoment

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the regular issues of said newspaper,

and not in any supplement thereof, times said publication having been made in the issues thereof under the following date(s), to-wit:

mar 28 ,2022	,2022
apr 11th ,2022	,2022
,2022	,2022
,2022	,2022
,2022	,2022
,2022	,2022
,2022	,2022
merezeele	
Subscribed and sworn to before me this	// day of

CARLA STREEPER NOTARY PUBLIC for the State of Montana

My Commission Expires

April 13, 2025

A.D., 2022.

Carla Streeper Residing at Havre, Montana

Notary Public for the State of Montana Residing at Havre, Montana

My Commission expires April 13, 2025

