



July 21, 2026

AMENDED 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<br>Wastewater Improvements |
| Location       | Hingham, Montana                           |
| Project Number | WPCSRF #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 and identified needed improvements. 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.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for the Town by its consultant, Robert Peccia & Associates and a Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment was published in The Havre Daily News on March 28, 2022. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on June 24, 2025, to address and publicly notice changes to the project since the EA was issued, which included identifying the sludge disposal site and removing work in Cell #2 from this phase of the project. The FONSI was published in The Havre Weekly Chronicle on July 3, 2025.

This Amended FONSI is being issued to identify and publicly notice a relocation of the sludge disposal area from the area identified in the FONSI dated June 24, 2025. Sludge will be land-applied on approximately 100 acres of adjacent farmland, located north and east of the lagoon site, on property owned by Reuben Scheuerman Jr. 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. All other aspects of the project 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 <http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea> and at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality  
2401 Colonial Ave  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901  
[peter.behrends2@mt.gov](mailto:peter.behrends2@mt.gov)

Town of Hingham  
509 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 evaluated 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Abrahamson", is written over a horizontal line.

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

