



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
CITY OF MISSOULA, MONTANA  
WPCSRF #: C301321  
Garden City Compost Facility Improvements  
January 31, 2025

Through a 2024 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), the City of Missoula analyzed its existing biosolids composting facility, identified facility needs, and selected alternatives to address those needs. The Missoula wastewater treatment plant presently sends approximately 28 to 39 tons per day of semi-dry biosolids to the adjacent Garden City Compost facility, where the biosolids are mixed with a shredded wood bulking agent and composted into a marketable agricultural product. The City has been operating the compost facility since 2016, when they purchased it from EKO Compost, who had been composting the City's biosolids under contract since 1977. The City completed temporary upgrades to the facility in 2017 and 2018, including adding a mixer and grinder and constructing concrete composting bunkers with positive-pressure aeration provided by two 40-hp blowers. The facility operates under Class II Solid Waste Management System License #346 issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Composting is currently done on the ground surface, instead of on a low permeability work pad capable of controlling runoff and leachate as required by the license. Additional deficiencies include odor issues and processing inefficiencies. The proposed project comprises constructing permanent concrete composting bins with drainage collection, negative pressure aeration, and biofiltration; a biosolids cake storage bin; an impervious work area; and aerated curing bins. The project will protect the environment and ensure permit compliance by collecting runoff and leachate, minimize nuisance odors that can negatively impact neighbors, and provide permanent processing of the City's biosolids into a safe and marketable compost product.

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  
1520 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

City of Missoula Water Department  
1345 West Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59802

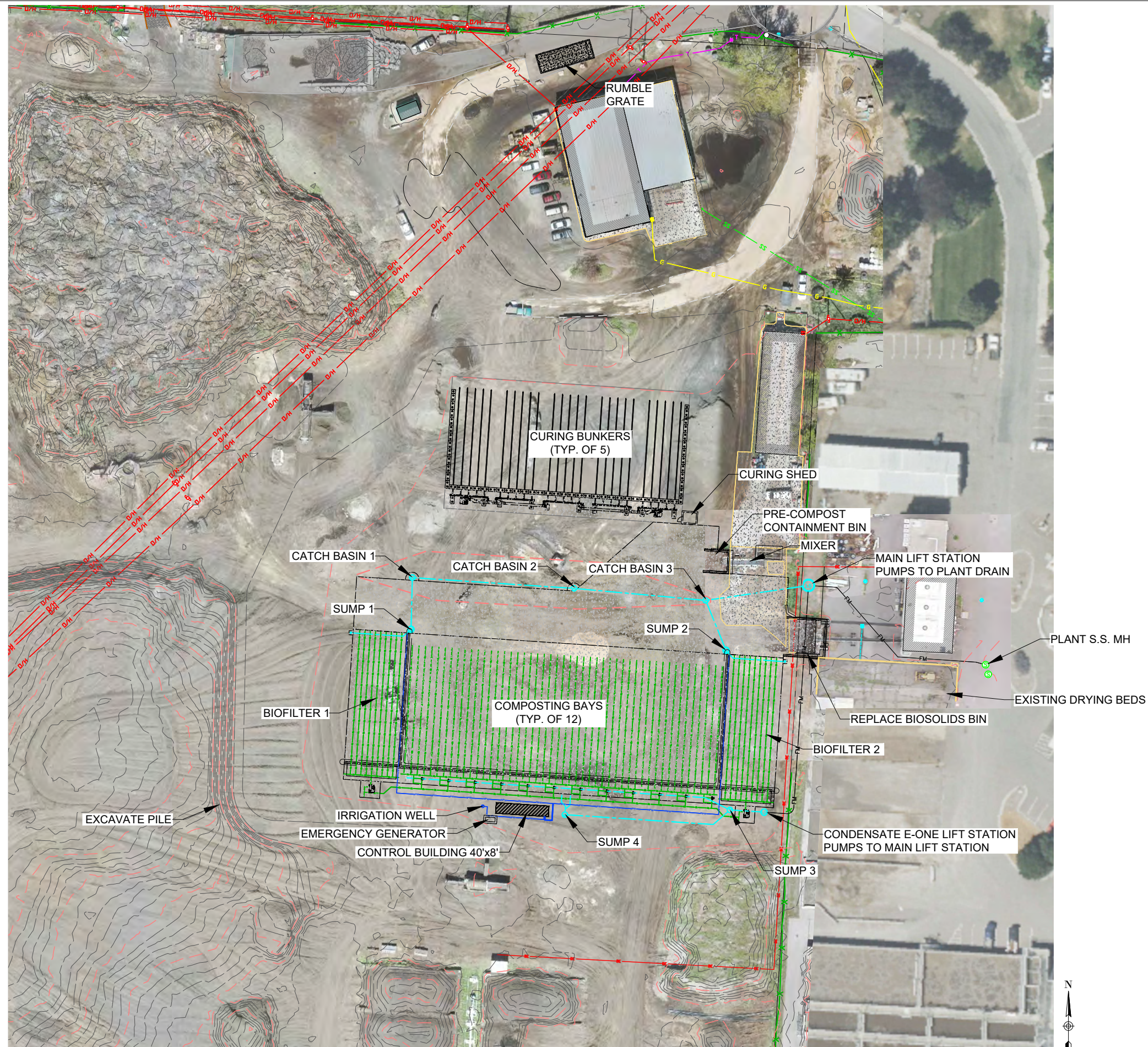
Sincerely,

*Michael Abrahamson*

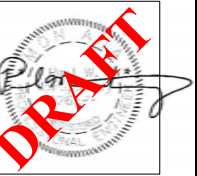
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Michael Abrahamson, PE  
Section Supervisor  
Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Program  
Engineering Bureau, Water Quality Division  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

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Site Plan



Revision	Date	By
30% Draft	8/1/24	AE
60% Draft	11/18/24	AE
90% Draft	1/31/25	AE

Revision	90% Draft
Plot Scale	1:2
Drawn By	A.Eckhart, P.E.
Approved By	P.Montgomery, P.E.
Checked By	A.Eckhart, P.E.
Designed By	P.Montgomery, P.E.

Engineer

Anderson-Montgomery  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

1064 N. Warren  
Helena, MT 59601  
Phone (406) 449-3303

**Jacobs**

712 N. D Street  
Livingston, MT 59047  
Phone (214) 638-0145

Owner

City Of  
Missoula

Project Title

Garden City  
Compost  
Facility  
Improvements

Sheet Title

Site Plan

Sheet

**C-4**

CHAPTER III – ATTACHMENT D

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: Missoula Garden City Compost Facility Improvements

Project Number: C301321

Date: 1/31/2025

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).]*

- yes 1. minor upgrading;
- yes 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.

yes 15. DEQ distributes the Notice of Determination.

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

yes 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.

*PBehrens*

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**STATE PREPARER**

*Michael Abrahamson*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**STATE REVIEWER**

**1/31/2025**

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**COMPLETION DATE**