

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
CITY OF THOMPSON FALLS WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

August 26, 2025

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above-named project. This proposed project consists of the replacement of approximately 8,298 feet of distribution pipe, replacement of the existing Jefferson water storage tank with a new pre-stressed concrete water storage tank located directly adjacent to the existing Jefferson tank, the installation of a new liner for the existing Ashley water storage tank, and construction of a redundant well source. A Decision Memo Categorical Exclusion for this project was also completed by the Department of Natural Resources in January 2024.

For the main replacement portion of the project, approximately 4,252 LF of 8-inch C900 PVC pipe and 4,046 LF of 6-inch PVC pipe will be installed in the proposed two phases of the project. The pipe installation will be in multiple areas along Golf Street, Elk Street, Hill Street, Cedar Street, Columbia Street, and Washington Street. The redundant well will be located approximately 80 feet from existing wells #3 and #4.

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 planning documents, a new or modified application is submitted, or 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:

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

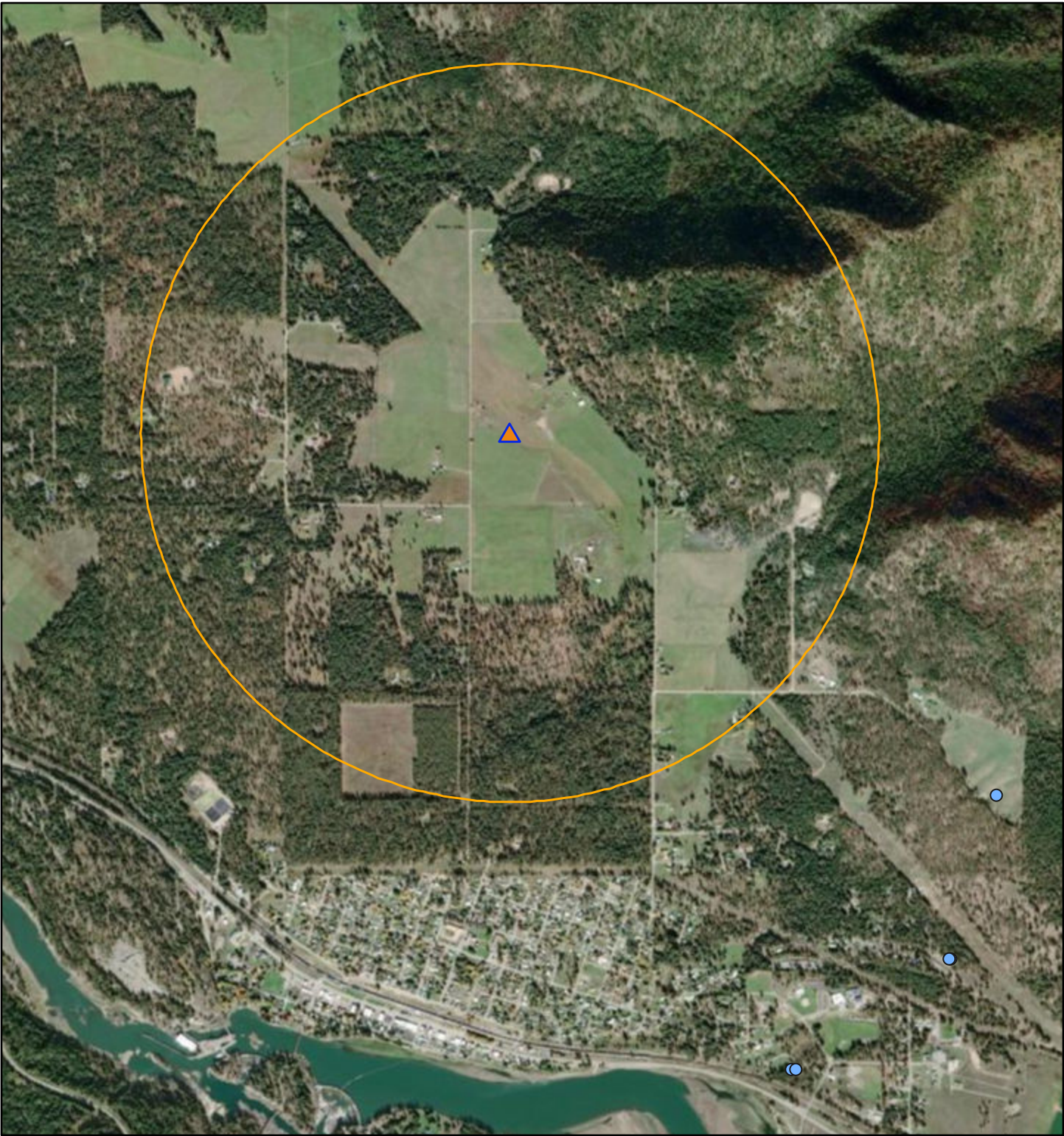
City of Thompson Falls
108 Fulton Street
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

Sincerely,







Sandie Koenig, PE, SRF Engineering Supervisor
Engineering Bureau
Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

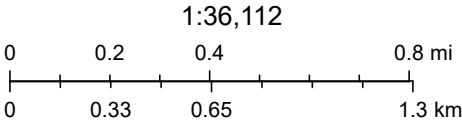
Thompson Falls Dioxin Site



6/3/2025, 10:31:40 AM

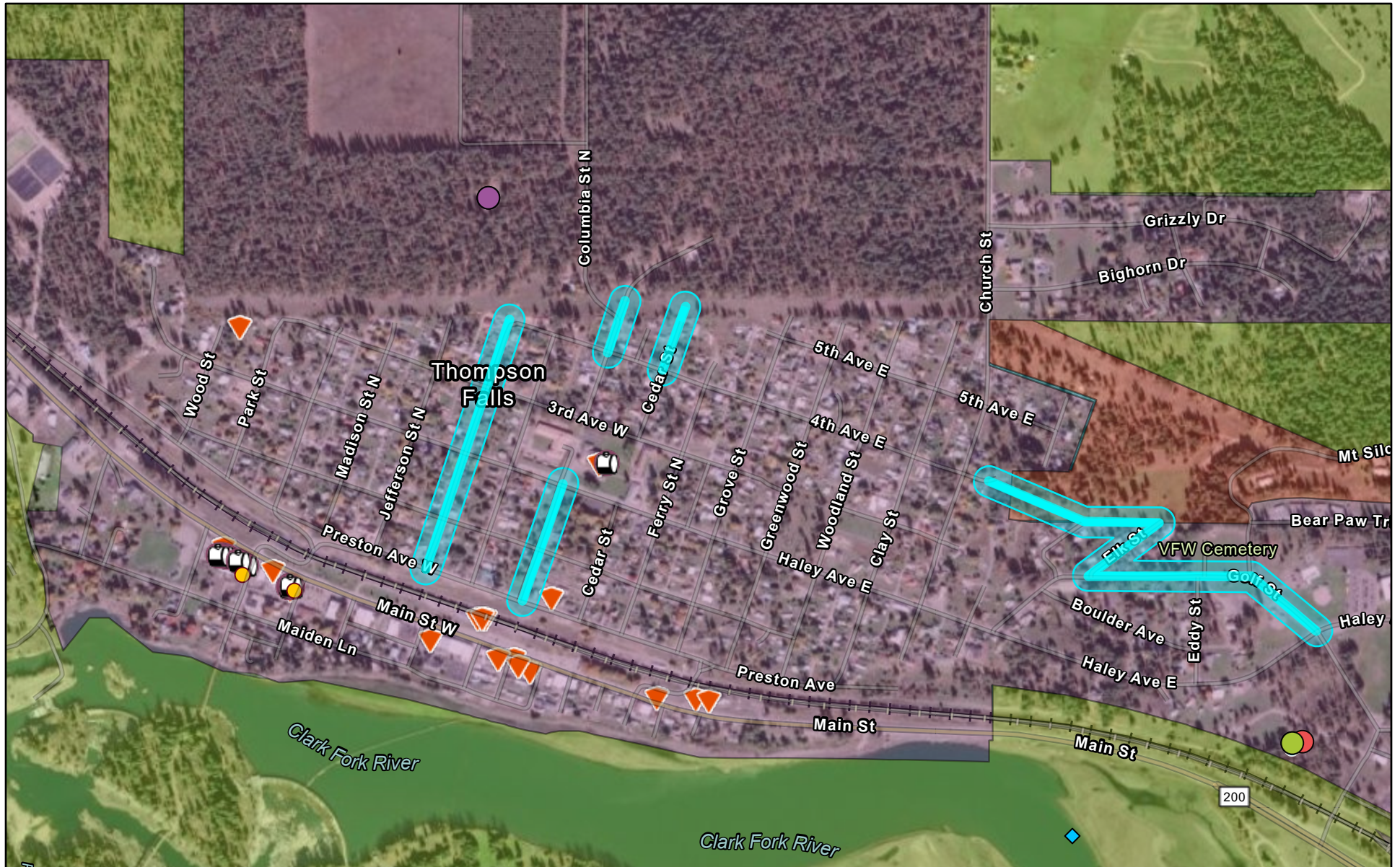
Public Water Supply Facilities

-  C
-  Remediation Response Sites (RRS) with Dioxin/PCP
-  HWS & RRS Sites with Dioxin/PCP Buffers (1 Mile)
-  County Boundaries



Maxar

T. Falls PCS Review



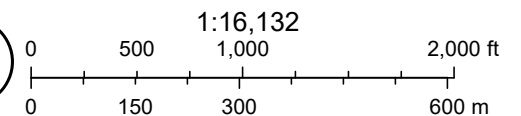
5/29/2025, 1:08:02 PM

Montana Public Water Supply Facilities Potential Contaminant Source Review Lines

- WELL
- TREATMENT PLANT
- STORAGE FACILITY
- PUMP FACILITY
- In Progress
- ◆ Montana State Superfund Unit Facilities
- Underground Storage Tank Facilities

- Underground Storage Tanks
- Petroleum Tank Substance Releases
- Resolved
- Low Septic Density

- Medium Septic Density
- High Septic Density
- Municipal Sewer System
- Railroads



Esri Community Maps Contributors, Montana State Library, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of

CHAPTER IV - ATTACHMENT A
DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: _____

Project Number: _____

Date: _____

Preparer: _____

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).]

1. minor upgrading;
 Yes No
2. minor expansion of system capacity;
 Yes No
3. rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components;
 Yes No
4. construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
 Yes No
5. projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement 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.
 Yes No

(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.]

6. the action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;
 Yes 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;

Yes No

8. the action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;

Yes No

9. the action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;

Yes No

10. the action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

Yes 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;

Yes 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.

Yes No

(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.]

13. Project meets the above Categorical Exclusion criteria. _____

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. _____

STATE PREPARER

STATE REVIEWER

COMPLETION DATE