



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curt Fransen, Director

May 21, 2014

The Honorable Randolph Stewart
Mayor of Winchester
P.O. Box 245
Winchester, Idaho 83555

RE: Environmental determination for the City of Winchester Drinking Water System
Improvement Project (DWG 144-2014-1)

Dear Mayor Stewart:

A draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on April 4, 2014 for the City of Winchester drinking water system improvement project based on a careful review of the environmental information document prepared by J-U-B Engineers.

The draft FONSI was published on April 9, 2014 in the *Lewis County Herald*, newspaper of record for the City of Winchester. A comment was received during the 30-day public comment period following publication. The final FONSI has been revised to include the comment received and the agency's response.

This completes the environmental review of this project. Please contact Michael Camin at the DEQ Lewiston Regional Office, (208) 799-4888, if you have questions regarding the project. For questions regarding the environmental review, contact Ester Ceja at (208) 373-0585 or via e-mail at Ester.Ceja@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry N. Burnell".

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:EC:dls

Enclosures

c: Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office
MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office
Michael Camin, DEQ Lewiston Regional Office
Michelle Johnson, JUB Engineers, (mjohnson@jub.com)
Steve James, JUB Engineers, (sjames@jub.com)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: May 21, 2014
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental determination for the City of Winchester Drinking Water System Improvement Project

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and the "Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities" (IDAPA 58.01.22), an environmental review has been performed and a final finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is hereby issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the project described below:

Project: City of Winchester Drinking Water System Improvement Project
Location: Winchester, Lewis County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number: DWG 144-2014-1
DEQ Grant Costs: \$37,500.00

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to create a reliable water source.

Description of the Project: The proposed project involves the construction of drinking water wells, construction of a new 300,000 gallon storage tank, and distribution upgrades on Clark Street as well as South of Camas Street. The city will also be replacing water meters.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by J-U-B Engineers (JUB), consulting engineer for the City of Winchester. JUB and DEQ consulted with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on consultation with agency experts, JUB and DEQ evaluated the potential short-term and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the drinking water system improvement project. The evaluation emphasized site-specific components of the environment that are most likely to be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed improvements. The results of the project evaluation indicate there will be environmental effects from the referenced project as described below.

Short-term impacts may occur during project construction that include temporary disruption of the distribution system, increased noise, increased dust pollution, increased potential for stormwater runoff, and disruption of localized traffic conditions. The project contractor is responsible for managing the temporary disruptions of the system as follows:

- **Air Quality:** Temporary dust pollution impacts will be controlled as a condition of the construction specifications in accordance with the "Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho" (IDAPA 58.01.01.651). IDAPA 58.01.01.651 states that reasonable precautions shall be taken for dust control and suppression by using water or chemicals, applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials. In addition to the rule requirements, DEQ recommends that a dust prevention and control plan be implemented during construction of the project that includes best management practices to minimize dust pollution for fugitive dust control. Emergency generators must comply with Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

- **Cultural Resources:** If archeological artifacts (such as beads, arrow heads, pottery, fabric, grave goods, glass, metal fragments, or other human-made objects that appear to predate 1960) or human remains (such as bones, bone fragments, or teeth) are inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the Nez Perce Tribe Historic Preservation Office (THPO) shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by THPO and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.
- **Stormwater:** Stormwater shall be avoided by having equipment available to put appropriate containment systems into service in a timely manner. Examples of containment systems include silt fences, temporary berms, and vegetative or mulch cover, and installing drains to control surface runoff and to minimize soil loss.
- **Wildlife:** Precautions to avoid known Bald Eagle nesting and roosting areas during project construction include orange security fencing outward from the base of the tree extending a minimum radius of 50 feet in proximity of the project footprint. No staging or earthwork will occur within a 50-foot radius of the roosting tree.
- Noise impacts from the project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.
- Implement any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

The project contractor and city are responsible for obtaining any other local, state, or federal permit required for activities taking place during project construction.

Beneficial Impacts: Overall, the completion of the proposed project will have long-term positive effects by providing the residents with a reliable water supply.

Finding: The review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared for the proposed project. Instead, a FONSI is hereby issued by DEQ. This decision is made following a careful review of the April 2014 *Environmental Information Document for City of Winchester, Idaho Water System Improvements*, the 2013 *City of Winchester Water Facility Plan*, and supporting documentation.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

Copies of this final FONSI and supporting documentation upon which it is based are available on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx or at the following locations:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Water Quality Division
 1410 North Hilton
 Boise, Idaho 83706
 Grant/loan SERP contact: Ester Ceja
 208-373-0585

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Lewiston Regional Office
 1118 F Street

Lewiston, Idaho 83501
Regional Office contact: Michael Camin
208-799-4888

The public was informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Lewis County Herald*, one time in the April 9, 2014 publication.

Public Comments: A comment was submitted to DEQ for consideration during the 30-day public comment period. The comment submitted and the agency's response is attached and is officially part of the City of Winchester drinking water system improvement project record and the final FONSI. The attached response to the comment submitted was sent to Jewell Larrabee.

Jewell Larrabee
jdlarra@msn.com



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

Response to Public Comments Received During the 30-Day Public Comment Period for the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the City of Winchester Drinking Water System Improvement Project

May 16, 2014

Section 1: EID and draft FONSI-Related Comments and Responses

Drinking Water

Comment: The City of Winchester has been under water restrictions for several years. This project needs to be completed asap. The lack of sufficient water has had a serious impact on our property values and our lives in general. I am not quite sure what environmental concerns there are in regard to this project but am fairly positive that drinking water for the City of Winchester should have a higher priority.

Response: Projects receiving federal funding require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An environmental information document was developed for the Winchester drinking water project and it was determined that the project would not have significant impact on the environment.