

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	R/W Easement Application—New Sewage Lagoons/Waste Water Treatment Plant
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	April 1, 2014
<b>Proponent:</b>	Town of Moore, Montana
<b>Location:</b>	34 Acres in the NW1/4, Sec. 16, T14N, R16E
<b>County:</b>	Fergus

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The Town of Moore, Montana is working to complete improvements to the Town's wastewater treatment system. The purpose of the project is to eliminate the illegal discharge of approximately 7.5 million gallons per year of raw and undertreated wastewater through tears in the lagoon liners in order to protect public health and safety and to bring the system into compliance with Montana DEQ standards. The improvements include rehabilitating the existing lagoons, installing a second storage lagoon, and installing a new center pivot irrigation system.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

*Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.*

Mt. DNRC, Lewistown Unit Office-Lewistown, Mt. 59457—Area Manager- NELO, Clive Rooney  
Town people of Moore, Mt. 59464—Mayor, Gary Greenwood  
Great West Engineering, Billings, Mt. 59101—Jackie Kuhl, EI-Project Engineer—Chad Hanson, PE  
Principal Project Engineer

Scoping was done in Moore, Mt. during three public meetings, spring of 2013 at the Fire Hall.

#### 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Mt. USDA Rural Development, Randall C. Roberts, Area Specialist—Letter of Conditions  
(SWPPP) Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Permit—MT.DEQ

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A: The "No Action" alternative.

Alternative B: The alternative to develop a Right-of-Way Easement to the Town of Moore for new sewage lagoons and a waste water treatment plant on State Land.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

#### 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

*Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.*

The soil is Doughty-Sipple Loam--0 to 2% slopes. It is formed from alluvium derived dominantly from the Snowy Mountain limestones. It has moderate to low permeability. This soil has the potential for frost action and low soil strength. Adequate drainage and the use of suitable fill material that is properly compacted can overcome these limitations.

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**5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:**

*Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.*

Water quality in this area has already been degraded by the faulty waste water system that now exists. Erosion control will be limited by the contractor implementing an erosion control plan as part of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan when putting in the new system.

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**6. AIR QUALITY:**

*What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.*

Air pollution may be caused by dust from construction activities. This will be a short term issue. It will be limited through the construction contract. The contract will require the contractor to provide dust control using water or other approved methods.

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**7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:**

*What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.*

There are no rare plants or cover types present. This area has historically been farmed. Lately it was in alfalfa hay production till 2 years ago. Now it is in small grain production.

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**8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:**

*Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.*

There are no fish that inhabit the existing sewage ponds. There are however waterfowl, and other Dicky birds that utilize this habitat. These will be momentarily displaced until project completion. After project completion, no cumulative effects are anticipated.

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**9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:**

*Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.*

At this time, no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources have been identified within the project area.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

*Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.*

There are no historical, paleontological or archaeological resources present.

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**11. AESTHETICS:**

*Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.*

This project will be quite visible from the Town of Moore, Montana and from US HWY 87. Excessive noise and light will occur only during construction of the new wastewater system. The new system should improve the aesthetics over the old system.

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**12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:**

*Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.*

There are no other activities nearby that should affect this project.

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**13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:**

*List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.*

Notes from the TSEP Environmental Hearing: "Since these improvements will not significantly affect the quality of human life, and will actually improve it, an Environmental Impact statement is not necessary. Instead, an Environmental Assessment was completed and all environmental issues listed above were documented."

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IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i></li><li>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i></li><li>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i></li></ul>

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**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

Human health and safety will be greatly improved due to the new wastewater system. The old existing system lost approximately 7.5 million gallons of untreated wastewater per year.

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**15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:**

*Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.*

The farming around the project area will be impacted until construction is completed. After completion, the irrigated land will benefit from irrigated water that does not presently exist. Due to the nature of the wastewater irrigated, there no longer will be small grain crops produced for human consumption.

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**16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

*Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.*

No new jobs will be created. There are no direct or cumulative effects to the employment market.

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**17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:**

*Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.*

The tax base should not be affected. This area is being used for the same purpose as in the past.

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**18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

*Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services*

Additional services will not be required. No cumulative effects are expected.

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**19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:**

*List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.*

There are no other management plans or zoning laws that will affect this proposed project.

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old lagoon liners will be removed along with the pitrun base. A new fine grained subbase will be installed and lined with new PVC and covered with fine grained material and riprap. The lagoons will be designed to meet DEQ Circular 2 Standards.

Only positive impacts are expected from this project. The present negative impacts from the outdated present system will go away.

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**27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

EIS       More Detailed EA       No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Clive Rooney
	<b>Title:</b> Area Manager, NELO
<b>Signature</b> /s/ Clive Rooney	<b>Date</b> 2/11/14