

CITY OF RED LODGE
WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT CONTACT PERSON

Name: Jim Bushnell, Superintendent of Public Works
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II. PROPOSED ACTION

One of the City of Red Lodge's greatest challenges is the age of their sanitary sewer collection system. Over 33,080 linear feet of sewer main are severely outdated. The mains are cracked and deteriorated so much that they detrimentally impact the City's groundwater supply. Infiltration and exfiltration occur when holes are present on the pipe. This causes the city to pump clean groundwater instead of exclusively wastewater and amounts to higher electricity costs. Also, the Highway 212 lift station pumps frequently clog from rags and wipes.

III. ALTERNATIVES

As part of the 2022 Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) prepared by Great West Engineering, Inc., many different alternatives were investigated for the collection system and lift station improvements.

An extensive cost comparison and ranking was completed for the alternatives as part of the 2022 PER. The cost comparison was completed using a present worth analysis. The alternatives were then scored and ranked based on a weighted decision matrix. The categories that each alternative were scored on were as follows: land acquisition, social impacts, environmental impacts, life cycle costs, public health and safety, permitting issues, sustainability, and operation and maintenance. Please refer to Chapters 5 and 6 of the 2022 PER for more detailed information regarding the cost comparisons and decision matrix. After ranking and scoring different characteristics of each alternative, the following was selected as the preferred alternative:

- **Alternative C-2:** Cured-In-Place-Pipe Rehabilitation with Sewer Main Replacement
- **Alternative LS-2:** Install Grinder Directly Upstream of Wet Well

IV. MITIGATION

The items that require mitigation are the following. Hazardous facilities that include active leaking underground storage tanks were identified in the City. CIPP lining the sewer mains does not require excavation, so petroleum contaminated soils should not be encountered. If petroleum contaminated soils are encountered during construction in the spot repair

areas and/or manhole replacement areas, the DEQ standards including ductile iron pipe with nitrile gaskets will be implemented. Provisions will be made to remove any contaminated soils encountered and replaced with imported backfill during construction. If encountered, the DEQ Petroleum Technical Section will be notified for testing and determination of disposal.

There will be some dust associated with construction activities. Dust will be mitigated by using water to combat airborne dust. Short term nuisances such as noise and exhaust fumes may occur during construction. Efforts will be made to minimize these nuisances and address certain problems if they occur. No permanent adverse impacts are anticipated. There may be some temporary noise during construction of the proposed project. However, construction operation hours will be limited to 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. No other long-term impacts to noise are anticipated upon completion of the project.

A portion of the proposed improvements is in the Rock Creek floodplain which may require a floodplain permit. Although, the portion in the floodplain is not a part of the proposed Phase One or Phase Two improvements area.

V. IS AN EA OR EIS REQUIRED?

After considering several items, it has been determined that this project is not a candidate for a Categorical Exclusion and this project is instead a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), so this Environmental Assessment is required. There is a need for this Environmental Assessment since this project is not just a minor upgrade, as it is a rehabilitation project of existing mains in the same locations. However, the project will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, so it will not require an Environmental Impact Statement. An Environmental Checklist was completed as part of the initial PER and is included in Appendix A of the 2022 PER and all environmental issues were addressed in that document.

VI. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A formal public hearing will be held on April 26, 2022 to gather public input on the proposed improvements. At the public hearing, the improvements will be explained including the purpose and proposed area of the project, activities, budget, possible sources of funding, environmental assessment process, and any costs that may result for local citizens because of the project.

VII. PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING

This EA was prepared by Eugenia Barry, PE and Chad Hanson, PE of Great West Engineering, Inc.

VIII. OTHER AGENCIES

Agencies contacted for input on this Environmental Assessment and their responses can be found in Appendix A of the 2022 Water System Improvements PER, but include agencies such as the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Montana Sage Grouse Program, and the National Park Service.

EA Approved By:

Chad Hanson, P.E.

Date

For the City of Red Lodge

Mayor

Date