

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: September 29, 2021

To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals

Subject: Environmental determination for the Laclede Water District drinking water improvement project

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Wastewater and Drinking Water Loan Funds” (IDAPA 58.01.12) and “Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water and Wastewater Facilities” (IDAPA 58.01.22), an environmental review has been performed and a draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is hereby issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Project:	Laclede Water District Drinking Water Improvement Project
Location:	City of Laclede, Bonner County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	DWG-211-2020-7
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$28,000
DEQ Loan Number:	TBD
Total Loan Project Cost:	TBD

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to address system deficiencies with the water system intake, treatment, and distribution.

Description of the Project: The proposed project involves:

- Replacing existing intake pumps with two new pumps totaling 365 gallons per minute (GPM);
- Installing a new radio telemetry system;
- Upgrading existing control panels;
- Adding a backup generator;
- Constructing a new land-based pump system;

- Installing a new ultrafiltration membrane water treatment plant, in a new building, at the existing treatment site;
- Rehabilitating the settling pond;
- Re-coating the reservoir top;
- Constructing a new 200,000 gallon concrete reservoir; and
- Replacing 3,400 feet of 2-inch line with 4-inch line.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information screening table and corresponding documents were prepared by Brent Deyo, T-O Engineers, consulting engineer for the Laclede Water District (District). T-O Engineers and DEQ consulted with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on consultation with agency experts, T-O Engineers and DEQ evaluated the potential short-term and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the drinking water 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 includes temporary disruption of the distribution, and treatment 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 (BMPs) to minimize dust pollution for fugitive dust control.
- 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 State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Kalispel Tribe, shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribe, and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.
- Stormwater: Stormwater runoff shall be handled through an Environmental Protection Agency Stormwater Construction General permit and the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP and stormwater BMPs will be

implemented prior to, during, and after project construction to reduce the potential for erosion from runoff.

- Endangered Species/Critical Habitat: Implement BMPs and mitigation measures outlined in the July, 21, 2021, *Laclede Water District Drinking Water Improvements Project – Threatened/Endangered Species and Essential Fish Habitat Memo*, to protect potential Bull Trout critical habitat.
- 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 following permits will be required for this project:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for work within Waters of the U.S. (work in Pend Oreille River)
- 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 upgrading treatment, distribution and intake for the District’s drinking water system.

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 2021 *Draft Laclede Water District Water Facilities Plan*, and supporting documentation.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

Copies of the notice of the draft FONSI and the corresponding information upon which it is based are available for public review by submitting a public records request, pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-101, et seq. A request may be submitted at <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/public-records-request/>.

The records may also be available for public review by contacting:

Laclede Water District
PO Box 222
Laclede, ID 83841
Contact: Laclede Water District, lwdistrict@frontier.com

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Bonner County Daily Bee*, one time in the September 29, 2021 publication.

Public Comments: Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision must be submitted on DEQ's website www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities or addressed to the following contact:

LaDonn Kaylor
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division, Grant and Loan Program
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

All comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before October 29, 2021. After an evaluation of public comment, DEQ will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after publication of the draft FONSI notice.



Jerri Henry
Drinking Water Protection & Finance Division Administrator