

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

For the Town of Alpine Water Transmission and Distribution Line Replacement Project
(Lincoln County), WY

The Department of Environmental Quality/Water Quality Division (DEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Town of Alpine Water Transmission and Distribution Line Replacement Project in accordance with EPA and State of Wyoming procedures for implementing the State Environmental Review Process. DEQ has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because the project replaces existing water mains within existing rights of way. All of the project site has been previously disturbed. Accordingly, DEQ is exempting the project from further substantive environmental review requirements under the State Environmental Review Process.

The following is a brief description of the situation and the proposed action and a brief statement of how the action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion; therefore, a full Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment will not be required for the proposed action.

The project involves the replacement of approximately 5500 feet of transmission line and 9200 feet of distribution line located on private lands within existing easements and rights of way. The lines being replaced have experienced excessive leakage and numerous breaks over the past five years resulting in significant water losses, major outages and additional operation and maintenance costs. The lines will follow the same alignment to the extent practicable, adjusted only to avoid other utilities and to keep water accessible to existing users during the construction. The total project estimate is \$1,153,800. The Town is seeking a \$769,354 Wyoming Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan. User fees may be used to repay the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan.

DEQ is granting an exclusion because this project will be completely constructed in previously disturbed ground by the present utility mains being replaced, public roads and other underground utilities including, sewer, power and communications. Specifically the new water lines will parallel the existing alignments and are expected to be within five (5) to fifteen (15) feet of the current mains being replaced. DEQ has determined that exempting the proposed project from further review under the State Environmental Review Process will not result in adverse impacts to the population or the area of Alpine (Lincoln County), Wyoming.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file in the DEQ Cheyenne office and is available for public scrutiny upon request. Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Brian Mark, State Revolving Funds Program, Water Quality Division, Department of Environmental Quality, Herschler Building 4-W, 122 West 25th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002, telephone (307) 777-6371, FAX (307) 777-5973, e-mail bmark@wyo.gov

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