

Finding of No Significant Impact

SECTION 595 of WRDA 99

WEST BONNER WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECT

OLDTOWN, IDAHO

April 2011

Project Summary

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps), in cooperation with the project sponsor, the West Bonner Water and Sewer District (Sewer District), propose to install community wide water distribution and sewer collection systems on the east side of the Pend Oreille River in the site commonly known as the Albeni area. The Corps will cost share on the proposed project under the authority of Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999.

The Albeni area is proposed for high density residential development. Currently there are several residences and businesses in the area, but most of the land is vacant. Existing residents rely completely on individual on-site sewer systems and water supplied by individual wells. To provide sewer service to the proposed residential lots, a gravity sewer collection system to direct wastewater to the existing Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant located on the west side of the Pend Oreille River is proposed. To provide water to the area, two new wells and an above ground water tank is also proposed.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has reviewed this project and has determined that the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the West Bonner Water and Sewer District meets the requirements under 40 C.F.R. 1500-1508, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Federal participation in the review and acceptance of the EA was triggered by the fact that the Corps will be cost sharing the design of the project under Section 595 of WRDA 1999.

Alternatives

Several alternatives were considered to meet the project purpose and need including: the preferred alternative, the "no action" alternative, installation of individual drinking water wells, upgrade of existing well, water withdrawal from the Pend Oreille River, pipe water from Oldtown, upgrade existing water tank, install new pressure sewer collection system, upgrade existing sewer collection system, individual on-site treatment systems, and construction of a separate community waste water treatment system. Of the alternatives considered, the preferred alternative is proposed based on our review of the attached EA which describes the expected effects of construction of the proposed project because it can be reasonably implemented, meets the projects purpose and needs, avoids aesthetic impacts, and is consistent with protection of the nation's environment.

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative evaluated in the attached EA consists of expanding the sewer district's sewer collection system across the Pend Oreille River to a duplex lift station and extending north to U.S. Highway 2 and east along the highway approximately 1,600 feet. A pump station will pump the wastewater to the west side of the river through a pressure sewer line. The pressure sewer line will be installed beneath the Pend Oreille River bed and will connect to the existing Sewer District gravity collection system and on to the existing Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant. The pressure sewer line will be installed under the river using horizontal directional drilling to minimize disturbance. Water will be supplied by the construction of a 500,000 gallon above ground steel water tank located on a hill north of the Albeni area, and two 500 gallon per minute wells located near the river, and an associated pumphouse. The water distribution system will extend south to Highway 2, west along Highway 2, and southerly to the southwest portion of the Albeni area. The water distribution system will include crossing the Pend Oreille River and interconnecting with the existing water distribution system.

Summary of Environmental Impacts

The project represents some minor construction related impacts as well as some permanent modifications to an existing wetland area (subject to compensatory wetland mitigation). The Albeni area population is expected to continue growing with or without this project. Without implementation of an adequate wastewater collection and water distribution system, developers will continue to use individual on-site disposal systems that are not monitored, and many of which do not meet the requirements of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) and the Panhandle Health District. The existing, substandard on-site treatment units pose a potential public health and an environmental contamination risk to both surface and groundwater. The preferred alternative will have no effect on any Federally listed species. The preferred alternative will result in no impacts to any properties listed, proposed for listing, eligible for listing, or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Construction of the project could result in increased development within the floodplain, however only 2% of the total area is within the 100 yr flood plain. In addition, the proposed project is expected to be an improvement when compared to the possible effects of a 100 year flood event on the existing sewer system located within the 2% area. Areas near the proposed project site will be temporarily disturbed by proposed construction activities. Construction related impacts such as locally increased noise and particulate matter from exhaust and dust will be controlled to the maximum extent possible but minor impacts will occur. These impacts are considered temporary and pre-project conditions will reestablished, or be mitigated following construction. Thus, these impacts are not considered significant. Upon completion the project will provide a reliable sewage collection and treatment system that will function to decrease environmental contamination to area water resources.

Mitigation Measures

North of U.S. Highway 2, 0.32 acres of wetland fill associated with approximately 534 lineal feet of water tank access road construction will be mitigated via the purchase of wetland bank credits from the Valencia Wetland Bank. In construction areas that parallel wetlands care will be taken to avoid impacts through inadvertent drainage of seepage by restoring natural basin contours and

by backfilling any trenching adjacent to wetland areas. Measures under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Best Management Practices, such as minimizing ground disturbance, washing off-road equipment prior to entering construction sites, seeding, mulching, and fertilizing of disturbed areas to reduce weed establishment and prevent erosion will be implemented. An application requesting Nationwide Permit 12, verification and Preconstruction Notice authorization has been submitted to the Corps (Walla Walla District). This Nationwide Permit will also include Section 10 regarding the pipeline crossing under the Pend Oreille River. Issuance of the Permit is still pending. All required permits will be obtained prior to project construction. No additional mitigation is proposed or warranted.

Coordination

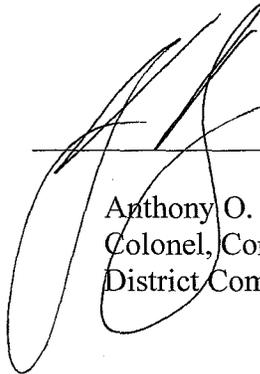
The Sewer District has conducted public meetings for area residents as well as held monthly Board meetings that were open to the public. This project has been coordinated with resource agencies as detailed in the Environmental Assessment. The Corps of Engineers completed Section 106 consultation with the Kalispel Tribe and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. In view of the results documented in the cultural resources report the Corps has determined that no archaeological properties are present and the proposed project will have no adverse affect on any historic properties within the area of potential effects (APE). This coordination documentation has been added to the Environmental Assessment. The Corps will require an inadvertent discovery clause for the excavation contractor.

Conclusion

After evaluating the anticipated environmental, economic, and social effects of the proposed activity, it is my determination that construction of the proposed West Bonner Water and Sewer System Extension Project, Phase I does not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The proposed action has been coordinated with the appropriate resource agencies, and there are no unresolved issues. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

18 May 201

Date



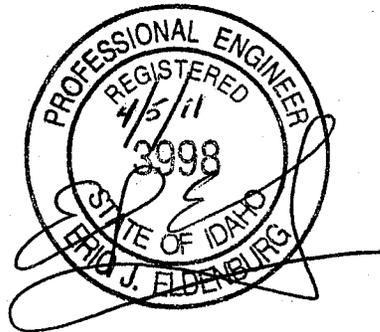
Anthony O. Wright
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

WEST BONNER WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Albeni Area Water and Sewer Extension Project

Oldtown, Bonner County, Idaho

Environmental Assessment



**Revised
March 21, 2011**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ALBENI AREA WATER & SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT
OLDTOWN, BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ALBENI AREA WATER & SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT

OLDTOWN, BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO

1.0 Purpose and Need for the Project

1.1 Project Description

The City of Oldtown and the West Bonner Water and Sewer District recently annexed a large tract of land located in parts of Township 56 North, Range 6 West, Section 24 and Township 56 North, Range 5 West, Section 19 on the east side of the Pend Oreille River. This tract of land is commonly known as the Albeni area. Currently there are several residences and businesses located within the Albeni area, but most of the land is vacant and owned by the Tri-Pro Cedar Mill. The owners of the Mill are proposing to develop most of the vacant land into residential lots. Due to the density of the proposed residential lots, the required sanitary setbacks for individual wells and on-site sewer systems will be impractical to achieve. Therefore it is proposed to install a community-wide water distribution system and sewer collection system. The proposed water system installation and sewer extension will centralize services to the existing residences and commercial buildings while allowing for future residential and commercial expansion.

Currently, all residences and businesses within the Albeni area dispose of wastewater using individual on-site sewer systems. It is proposed to install a gravity sewer collection system to provide sewer service to the proposed residential lots. The gravity sewer collection system will direct the wastewater from proposed and existing residences and businesses to a pumpstation located on the east side of the Pend Oreille River in the Albeni area. The pumpstation will pump the wastewater to the west side of the River through a pressure sewer line. The pressure sewer line will be installed beneath the Pend Oreille River bed, using horizontal directional drilling to minimize disturbance to the river, and will connect to the existing West Bonner Water and Sewer District gravity sewer collection system at the intersection of North Montana Avenue and East Second Street. From this interconnection the wastewater will flow downhill to the existing Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Currently all the residences and businesses are supplied water with individual wells. It is proposed to install two new 500 gallons per minute (GPM) water wells, a 500,000 gallon above ground steel water tank, and a water distribution system to provide drinking water to the proposed and existing residences and businesses within the Albeni area. The wells will be located near the River and the tank will be located on a hill north of the Albeni area. From the tank location, the proposed distribution system will extend south to Highway 2, west along Highway 2, and southerly to the southwest portion of the Albeni area. In order to provide construction and maintenance access to the water tank, an access road will be constructed within an easement to be granted to the City of Oldtown by the

property owner. This access road will be constructed from the north edge of the U.S. Highway 2 intersection of the Phase 1 boundary line north to the proposed water tank site. The proposed water distribution system will include crossing the Pend Oreille River and interconnecting with the existing water distribution system. This interconnection will normally be closed but can be opened to provide both the Albeni area and the existing City of Oldtown with an emergency water supply.

Proposed Plan: The proposed sewer system extension and water system construction will be completed in two phases. The West Bonner Water and Sewer District and the Army Corps of Engineers will partner in the oversight of the construction of Phase 1 of the Albeni Area Water System Construction and Sewer System Extension project.

Phase 1 Consists of:

- Expanding the District's sewer system across the Pend Oreille River to a duplex lift station and extending north to Highway 2 and east along U.S. Highway 2 approximately 1,600 ft. The gravity wastewater collection system will consist of 15", 12", 10" and 8" diameter PVC sewer mainline. The residences and businesses will be connected to mainlines with 4" diameter PVC sewer service lines. The wastewater generated by the residences and businesses will flow downslope through the 4" service lines into the mainlines. From mainlines the wastewater will flow to a pumpstation manhole where it will be pumped under the Pend Oreille River to the existing gravity wastewater system. The wastewater will then flow to the existing treatment facility for treatment and final disposal. See the design drawings in Exhibit 1 for the proposed pumpstation, manhole locations, and sewer line locations and river crossing. In order to mitigate the effects of a 100 year event on the proposed sewer system, the lift station wet well will be constructed such that the manhole access will be 1' above the 2056.5 feet elevation. This will allow continued operation of the sewer system during a 100 year or lesser flood event. Project construction will also include a 9'-4" x 12' sewer pumpstation electrical building and an adjacent 4' x 10' concrete propane tank pad.

- Construction of a 500,000 gallon above ground, welded steel water storage tank, construction of two 500 GPM wells, and construction of a 18' x 26'-8" water system pumphouse and Old Diamond Mill Road improvements. The proposed road improvements will included widen of the existing Old Diamond Mill Road from the current 12'-16' width to a 24' width (See the Development Plan in Exhibit 1 for road improvement locations). Phase I also will include the water and sewer horizontal directional boring to cross the Pend Oreille River. The proposed water and sewer boring will consist of installing (2) 12" diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes approximately 20 feet under the bed of the river. One 12" HDPE pipe will be a casing for a 6" HDPE pressure sewer pipe and one 12" HDPE pipe will

transport drinking water from the proposed water distribution system to the existing water distribution system and vice versa. See the Extension Plan in the Appendix for waterline, tank, and well locations.

Phase 2 Consists of:

- Extending the Phase 1 water and sewer main line along Highway 2 to the intersection of the highway and the west edge of Section 19, and extending the Phase 1 Water and sewer main line easterly along the BPA right-of-way approximately 3,500 ft. See the design drawings in Exhibit 1 for waterline locations.

1.2 Project Purpose and Need

Currently, all residences and businesses within the Albeni area use individual water and wastewater systems. Thus, existing water wells are in relatively close proximity to areas used for the disposal of wastewater within individual lots. In this situation, water wells can be influenced by percolating effluent; decreasing water quality. Additionally, as the Albeni area has been annexed into the City of Oldtown, maximizing the population density will benefit the community and surrounding areas. Allowing this area to continue with individual water wells and septic systems will limit the amount of businesses and residences that can be constructed while reducing the ground water quality within the Albeni area. The centralization of the water and sewer systems will allow for an increased population density, when compared to individual systems, and provide fire suppression flows to residences and facilities within the annexed area. Approximately 2% of the project area is located below the base flood elevation with parts of this area already developed. This project will allow for the replacement individual sewer systems already located below the BFE, while allowing for further development in the majority of the project area. Also it will provide safe, potable water to residential and commercial areas, and provide a sanitary means of collecting and disposing of wastewater. With a relatively shallow, confining stratum and shallow ground water in much of the project area, the proposed project will allow existing residents an option to switch from individual drainfields to a more reliable and environmentally friendly method of wastewater disposal. The proposed centralized sewer system in areas below the BFE will likely reduce environmental damages when compared to the existing individual systems in this area. Indirectly, the proposed project will allow the community to maximize commerce and residences when compared with other alternatives, which are discussed below.

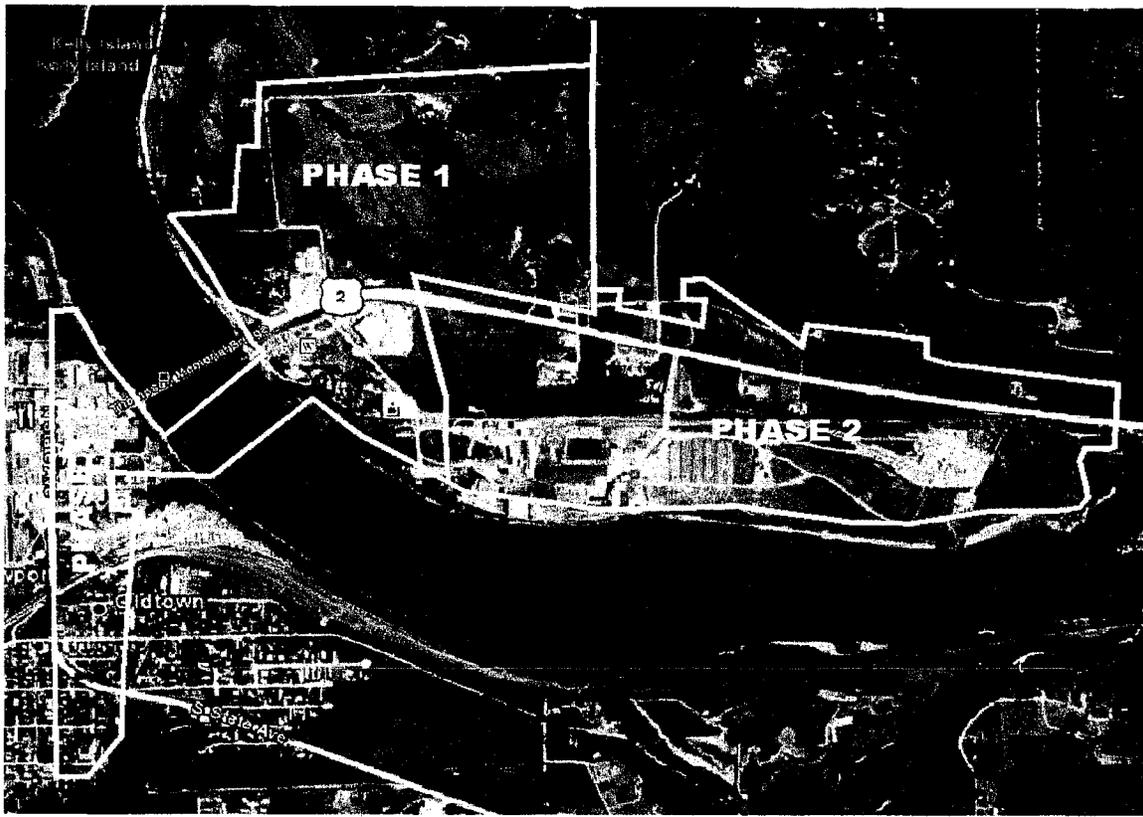


Figure 1. Albeni Falls Commercial Water and Sewer Improvement Area.

2.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

2.1 Water Supply Alternatives

2.1.1 Install Individual Drinking Water Wells

Each lot could be required to install individual wells to supply drinking water. Due to the density of existing and proposed lots, maintaining the required sanitary setbacks from the proposed and existing drainfields and septic tanks within and adjacent to existing and proposed lots would not be possible without increasing the size of the proposed lots and reducing population density. This alternative could also create conflicts between well cones, where water wells placed too close together reduce the ground water level within their interacting cone of influence. Where this happens, the water wells in question would have to be drilled deeper after initial installation to allow the existing well pump to be placed at a lower depth. These potential conflicts make the use of individual water wells impractical.

2.1.2 Upgrade the Existing Tri-Pro Well

The Tri Pro Cedar Mill currently owns a large well in the southern part of the Albeni area. Tri-Pro uses this well to supply the mill with drinking and process water. This well is privately owned and would need to be upgraded to meet Idaho Department of

Environmental Quality (DEQ) standards for drinking water wells. In the event that the Tri-Pro Mill was willing to sell the well to the City of Oldtown, achieving the upgrades would be impractical.

2.1.3 Draw Water from the River

The Albeni area is located on the banks of the Pend Oreille River. In order to use the River as a drinking water supply source a supply line and pump would have to be installed on the River bottom. The section of the River bordering the Albeni area is only 5 feet to 11 feet deep at the summer water level conditions, and may leave the supply line vulnerable to damage by boats and debris. The water coming from the River would require extensive treatment to meet water quality standards. The high cost of the treatment equipment and the treatment building would make using the River as a drinking water supply source impractical.

2.1.4 Pipe Water across the Pend Oreille River from Oldtown

The existing West Bonner Water and Sewer District water system is located across the Pend Oreille River from the Albeni area. Currently, the City of Oldtown and the City of Newport obtain their drinking water from springs located southeasterly of the City of Oldtown. The springs produce approximately 300 Gallons Per Minute. This volume of water is not sufficient to serve both the West Bonner Water and Sewer District and the City of Newport needs during the summer months. During times of continued high demand, the City of Newport augments the supply of water by activating a series of wells. Due to the fact that there is no reserve capacity to supply the current populations of the West Bonner Water and Sewer District and the City of Newport, supplying the Albeni area with water using these sources is not an option.

2.2 Water Storage Alternatives

2.2.1 Upgrade Existing Tri-Pro Water Tank

The Tri-Pro Cedar Mill previously used an elevated steel tank to store drinking and process water for the mill. This tank is privately owned, has not been in service for over 10 years, and is not located at the correct elevation to provide the required water pressure in the distribution system. The tank also would need to be upgraded to meet Idaho DEQ standards. These complications make using the existing tank impractical, if it were to be purchased from the Tri-Pro Cedar Mill.

2.2.2 Above Ground Concrete Tank

An above ground concrete water storage tank would be made of cast in place concrete with steel reinforcement and either a cast in place or precast lid. The West Bonner Water and Sewer District currently operates an above ground concrete storage tank and is not pleased with its performance. The concrete is cracked and leaking badly. The District did however consider using a concrete storage tank but dismissed it.

2.3 Sewer Collection Alternatives

2.3.1 Install New Pressure Sewer Collection System

A pressure wastewater collection system would consist of collection mains and laterals sized to allow a minimum of head loss for the wastewater pumps while also maintaining a minimum flow velocity of 2 feet/second. A flow velocity of 2 feet/second is desired to scour any solids or bacteriological growth off the inner pipe walls. The pressure mains may be constructed of high density polyethylene or schedule 40 PVC. The wastewater generated by the residences and business within the project would be directed via gravity service lines to individual grinder pumpstations. The pumpstations would be equipped with grinder pumps that grind all the solids in the wastewater and pump the wastewater to its final destination. The grinder pumps would be connected to mainlines with 1"-2" pipes depending on the grinder pumps used. This alternative was considered, however preliminary cost estimates exceeded those of the proposed project.

2.4 Sewer Treatment Alternatives

2.4.1 Individual On-site Sewer Systems

Individual on-site sewer systems include a septic tank connected to the residence or business with a 4" PVC service line. The septic tank provides primary treatment to the wastewater. The septic tank effluent is directed to a drainfield by either gravity or pressure lines. Once in the drainfield, the effluent is allowed to percolate through the soil. Due to the existing and proposed high lot densities within the project area and the fine texture of site soils it is be impractical to achieve appropriate sanitary setbacks and provide a safe means of wastewater disposal.

2.4.2 Construct Community Wastewater Treatment System

A community wastewater treatment system would consist of an aerated lagoon treatment facility. In general, wastewater would be treated in four individual steps. Step one would involve removing inorganic wastes via a screening system. The second step would be the biological breakdown of the organic portion of the wastewater. This is accomplished through aeration in the lagoon cells. The third step is disinfecting the treated wastewater prior to final disposal. The final step would be final disposal. Final disposal would consist of either land applying the treated effluent or discharging the treated effluent to the Pend Oreille River. As stated in the individual on-site sewer system analysis, the site soils are not suitable for sub-surface disposal. Due to the limited amount of suitable land available, land applying the effluent to an agricultural crop is also not an option. Treated effluent from the treatment system could be discharged to the Pend Oreille River; however, due to the extensive permitting process this is not considered to be a viable option.

2.5 No Action Alternative

A no action alternative for the newly annexed Albeni Falls area would require any new development within the Albeni Falls area to construct individual water and wastewater

facilities. As discussed in the above sections of considered alternatives, individual systems would create additional problems with regards to sanitary setbacks and water quality in the event that the existing areas are developed to the expected lot densities per the existing zoning requirements. Thus, in this context, the no action alternative for both water and sewer systems would be an ineffective and non-preferred alternative.

3.0 Affected Environment/Environmental Consequences

3.1 Land Used/Important Farmland/Formally Classified Lands

3.1.1 Affected Environment

The project area north of U.S. Highway 2 as shown in Figure 1 includes area of privately owned pasture and forest land. The proposed water tank site will include an approximate 30' x 50' gravel parking area and the 50' diameter x 30' tall steel water tank with an approximate 8' wide concrete apron at the base of the proposed tank, a concrete retaining wall north of the water tanks and a fence surrounding the proposed water tank lot. The proposed water tank site, access road and utility easement will be granted to the West Bonner Water and Sewer District by the current property owner. The proposed project area south of U.S Highway 2 includes light commercial areas in the Albeni area, residential areas, and rural areas within the city limits of the City of Oldtown. The majority of the project area contains privately owned and previously developed areas, such as the Tri-Pro Cedar Mill property. The Tri-Pro Mill site has been in use for over 100 years, so the majority of the area on the Tri-Pro property has various uses related to that industry. The zoning in the project area consists of single family residential, multi-family residential, light commercial, light industrial and public recreational areas. None of the land in the project area is classified as important farmland, important forestland, or important rangeland (See Exhibit 2). The public recreational land is located east of and adjacent to the U.S. Highway 2 right-of-way (ROW). This area includes a boat launch and parking area. This area is classified by the Idaho State Fish and Wildlife Service as public land and is the only formally classified land in proximity of the project area.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

As part of the proposed project, the access easement and water tank site area north of U.S. Highway 2 will be cleared and grubbed to allow construction of the access road and the proposed water tank and parking area. Within these areas, the existing vegetation, wetland areas and forest will be permanently removed to allow for the access road, waterline (subject to compensatory wetland mitigation), and water tank construction and maintenance. Additionally, water and sewer line trenching will be required along ROW of the north side of U.S. Highway 2, and will be temporarily disturbed during the construction process. The proposed project area south of U.S. Highway 2 has been previously developed, with much of the project area consisting of business and residences with independent water and sewer systems. The proposed centralized water and sewer improvements will replace the existing individual drainfields with sewer transport lines resulting in an improvement to the ground water quality in the Albeni area. With the

implementation of the centralized sewer system, the proposed water system will provide potable water relatively uninfluenced by individual sewage drainfields. The proposed water and sewer improvements in this area will also allow for increased population density when compared with the potential population density for residences and businesses with individual water and sewer systems.

3.1.3 Mitigation

North of U.S. Highway 2, the proposed access road, tank site and parking area adjacent to the tank site will be cleared and grubbed only as necessary to allow safe and efficient access to the proposed water tank and construction of the proposed water tank. Wetland fill associated with about 534 lineal feet of water tank access road construction will be mitigated via the purchase of "wetland bank credits" from the nearby Valencia Wetland Bank. A "joint application" requesting Nationwide Permit 12 verification and Preconstruction Notice authorization was submitted to the USACOE December 13, 2010 (NWW2010-664-C03). The Corps regional office in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, commented January 28, 2011, that the joint application will be sent to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and tribes for comment, and that a 30 day response time will be afforded. Corps staff further commented that Corps authorization is expected to be issued late-February, 2011 unless there are significant comments that would require cultural resource survey work. The water and sewer line trenching along the north side of the U.S. Highway 2 ROW will disturb grasses and trees during construction. Once the water and sewer trenches are backfilled and adequately compacted, the disturbed areas will be seeded with an appropriate seed mixture. South of U.S. Highway 2, the majority of the project area has been previously developed and the existing residences and businesses dispose of the septic waste through individual systems located near water wells. Impacts to vegetation in this area are expected to be construction related and temporary in nature; however, in locations where trenching occurs outside of existing roadways the impacts would be permanent. All disturbed areas will be seeded with an appropriate seed mixture. Trees disturbed as a result of project construction will not be replanted as the existing tree cover in impacted areas is sparse. Permanent impacts to vegetation will be limited to the area selected as the site of the proposed 9'-4" x 12' sewer pumpstation electrical building, the adjacent 4' x 10' concrete propane tank pad, and the proposed 18' x 26'-8" water system pumphouse. The proposed locations of the above structures can be seen in Exhibit 1. Since the proposed structure footprints are relatively small, these structures are not expected to have a significant impact on the land or indigenous flora and fauna species. Since the proposed sewer system will result in a substantial reduction in the amount of effluent being introduced to the environment within the project area, it is our opinion that the proposed project is an improvement with only minor temporary impacts to the existing land.

3.2 Floodplains

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Portions of the project area south of U.S. Highway 2 are positioned within a Special Flood Hazard Area. These Special Flood Hazard Areas are indicated on the attached FEMA Flood Insurance Map of the project area (See Exhibit 3). The majority of the Special Flood Area is located near the north end of the U.S. Highway 2 Bridge over the Pend Oreille River and is currently developed with light commercial and residential structures. These areas have a 1% chance of a 100 year flood event. North of U.S. Highway 2 there are no areas indicated as Special Flood Areas within the project area. The 100 year flood elevation or base flood elevation (BFE) in the project area is 2056.5 feet above sea level. Please note the attached map showing areas at or below 100 year flood elevation within the project area (See Exhibit 3). In contrast, the River surface elevation varies roughly from 2036 to 2038 at high water level. Currently, several individual septic systems are installed within the Albeni Falls Mill addition which is located in areas at or below this elevation. The proposed project will necessitate the installation of several sewer manholes and the sewer lift station in areas that are below the BFE.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

North of U.S. Highway 2 there will be no impacts on areas at or below the 100-year flood elevation. Existing and future businesses and residences located south of U.S Highway 2 and in areas below the BFE will be at risk to flooding. Since the proposed water and sewer system will facilitate development in the Albeni area, there will be an unavoidable increase in the potential for environmental impacts from a 100 year flood event. However, the proposed project is expected to be an improvement when compared to the possible effects of a 100 year flood event on the existing sewer systems located below the BFE. Additionally, as indicated on the 100 year flood map in the appendix, the area below the BFE is approximately 2% of the total project area. Local jurisdictions allow development within the flood plain within the project area, in part, because of the nature of the Pend Oreille River. The project area is located down stream of the Albeni Falls dam and is located adjacent to U.S. Highway 2. Typically, flooding in this section of the river is slow progressing in nature. The slow flooding nature of the river will allow evacuation time for area residences that will have a readily accessible evacuation route in a 100-year scenario. Additionally, no significant fill is expected to be placed as part of any development within the floodplain. Any new construction that may occur within the floodplain will require all necessary permitting, including a No-Rise Elevation Certification. Any impact to areas below the BFE as result of the construction of the proposed water and sewer components, not any subsequent development, is expected to be minor and temporary. The proposed sewer lift station located on the north side of the Pend Oreille River will be installed in an area that is below the 100 year flood elevation. Additionally, several sewer manholes will be constructed in areas that are below the 100 year flood elevation; however, manhole lids in these areas will have gaskets and will be sealed such that they will not be flooded. The proposed water and sewer extension will

not encourage development in the floodplain as residential development can already take place within the floodplain. The proposed project is expected to encourage commercial development above the floodplain by providing fire flow and community sewer service.

3.2.3 Mitigation

The elevation of the majority of the water and sewer project area is below the BFE is within approximately 2' of the 2056.5 feet above sea level flood elevation. Any future structures that may be constructed within these areas will have a finished floor elevation above the BFE. Areas significantly below the 100 year flood elevation are located on and near the river banks where no construction or development are proposed. In order to mitigate the effects of a 100 year event on the proposed sewer system, the lift station wet well will be constructed such that the manhole access will be 1' above the 2056.5 feet elevation. This will allow continued operation of the sewer system during a 100 year or lesser flood event. Additionally, sewer manholes will be constructed in areas that are below the BFE will have gasketed and sealed lids to prevent the manholes from flooding. Residential development within the floodplain is currently not restricted and the proposed project is not expected to encourage development of residences at locations below the 100 year flood elevation. Additionally, fill placement from subsequent construction as a result of the project is not expected to be significant, and construction within the floodplain will require all necessary permitting. The proposed project is expected to encourage commercial development in the 98% of the project area above the BFE by providing necessary community water and sewer services. Expected impacts from a 100 year event are further reduced when contrasting the proposed project with the City adopted zoning map. Several areas below the BFE and adjacent to the existing Albeni Falls Mill Addition have been zoned as public recreational, reducing the secondary anticipated impacts from project development and implementation (See project area zoning map in Exhibit 3).

3.3 Wetlands

3.3.1 Affected Environment

North of U.S Highway 2 there are identified wetlands that will be impacted by the installation of the water line and tank access road. The wetland area locations shown on the attached Exhibit 4 are the result of a wetlands delineation study completed in August of 2010 for the West Bonner Water and Sewer District by James A. Sewell & Associates. The wetlands delineation concluded that there is a palustrine emergent persistent seasonally flooded wetland at the proposed project water tank access road area. The proposed 16' wide water tank access road will permanently cover approximately 534 lineal feet of the existing wetland indicated in the delineation report as "Wetland B". Attached is the "joint application" submitted to the Corps requesting Nationwide Permit-12 verification and preconstruction notice authorization; the wetland report (made a part of the joint application); the wetland assessment (used to quantify wetland function and value, made a part of the joint application); wetland mapping (also made a part of the joint application); the revised wetland crossing; and a map of the wetland bank service

area and bank location. The wetland assessment initially determining that 1.12 credits would be purchased based on 534 lineal feet of water tank access road. After consultation with the Corps, and in the interest of reducing wetland fill, the road was slightly realigned to the west where it exits the wetland at "B-30." This shortens the road where it crosses the wetland from about 534 feet to about 507 feet. This realignment reduces the fill from 0.32 acre to 0.30 acre (from 13,845 s.f. to 13,182 s.f.), and correspondingly reduces the wetland bank credit purchase from 1.12 functional units to 1.05 functional units x \$22,000/credit, or \$23,100 worth of credits versus the \$24,640 initially calculated. Additionally, culverts will be installed at the proposed access road where it crosses "Wetland B" in order to maintain wetland connectivity. See the attached Exhibit 4 for wetland permitting and correspondence documentation. South of U.S Highway 2 and north of the Pend Oreille River, there are several sites that are classified as wetlands. The wetland area locations within the Tri-Pro property are the result of a wetlands delineation study completed in July 2008 for Tri-Pro Cedar Products property by Environmental Inc, which is attached in Exhibit 4. This wetlands delineation concluded that there are small areas of emergent freshwater wetlands and freshwater ponds within the project area. The wetlands established by these two delineation studies can be seen in the attached wetland comparison drawing of the existing wetland areas adjacent to and within the project area. As you will note on the attached project wetland comparison drawing, there is one wetland area which will have sewer trench constructed near its south edge. While the proposed sewer trenching will not be installed directly through the identified wetlands, it will pass near the south edge of the wetland area located south of the Albeni Falls Building Supply. The proposed sewer line in this area will be constructed along the center line of the existing road in order to reduce impacts on the adjacent wetland and ensure that the wetland is not drained as a result of project construction. Additionally, the proposed sewer line will pass near a wetland located near a Tri-Pro access road. The proposed sewer line in this area will be installed in the existing access road to reduce any construction related impacts to the adjacent wetland. This wetland area is located on the opposite side of a Tri Pro Mill access road from a storage building on the Tri Pro Mill property and directly east of the existing Avista Sub-Station.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

North of U.S. Highway 2, the proposed water tank access road and 12" water line installation will be constructed through a wetland area as described in the wetlands delineation report by James A. Sewell and Associates. The proposed access road will be a permanent modification to the existing wetlands area. The proposed 12" water line will be installed east of the proposed access road and will follow the access road to the proposed water tank. South of U.S. Highway 2, the proposed sewer line will be installed below the existing road grade at two locations adjacent to the nearby wetland areas. During the construction of the proposed sewer lines, a certain amount of minor temporary construction impacts may occur in the areas adjacent to the wetland, however any impacts on the existing wetland areas are expected to be minimal. Additionally, areas delineated as wetlands will not be available for development by the community in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the State of Idaho. While there

may be temporary negative impacts on the some of the wetlands located adjacent to the proposed water and sewer line routes within the project area, we believe that the reduction of potential influence from adjacent existing drainfields will positively impact the wetland areas.

3.3.3 Mitigation

North of U.S. Highway 2, wetland fill associated with about 534 lineal feet of water tank access road construction will be mitigated via the purchase of “palustrine emergent persistent seasonally flooded wetland bank credits” from Valencia Wetland Bank. In the two areas south of U.S. Highway 2, where the proposed sewer trench will be installed below the road adjacent to the existing wetlands, care will be taken to avoid impacting the wetland areas through inadvertent drainage or seepage. The natural basin contours will be restored in the event that they are altered as part of the construction process. Any trenching adjacent to these wetland areas will be backfilled and compacted sufficiently to prevent drainage. Because these impacted wetlands areas have already been officially delineated as such, it will be a requirement to mandate the contractor to repair and restore impacted wetlands area in accordance with regulations set by the State of Idaho.

3.4 Cultural Resources

3.4.1 Affected Environment

We have attached a list of all the historical sites as indicated by the State Historical Preservation Organization (See Exhibit 5). As you will see, there are no historical structures listed by the National Register of Historic Places in the project area. We have also contacted the Kalispel Tribe of Indians (KTOI) to ascertain the location of any sites of tribal significance with the project area. As you will see in the attached correspondence with the KTOI, there are two areas of historical significance within the project area (See Exhibit 5). Because the KTOI determined one of the historically significant sites to be a Tradition Cultural Property (TCP) an archaeological study and report was deemed necessary to ensure all historically significant structures and sites were protected. James A. Sewell and Associates contracted for an archaeological study to be conducted by Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. (See Exhibit 5 for additional information). Northwest Archaeological Associates (NWAA) found that (4) cultural resources are within or partially within the project area. All the indicated cultural resource sites are located within the Tri-Pro Mill property, south of U.S. Highway 2. We have submitted the archaeological study to and received correspondence from the Idaho State Historical Society. They have reviewed and accepted the archaeological study (See attached correspondence in Exhibit 5).

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

As indicated in the NWAA archaeological report there are (4) areas of historical significance within the project area and south of U.S. Highway 2. The archaeologist found that the proposed project will not negatively affect any of the cultural resources identified. One of these culturally significant sites was identified as a TCP by the KTOI

and has not been formally documented at the request of Mr. Kevin Lyons, KTOI Cultural Resources Program Manager. However, as you will see in the attached correspondence from the KTOI, the proposed project is not expected to impact the TCP.

3.4.3 Mitigation

The attached archaeological study found that historically significant sites within the project area have been compromised as a result of the development activity in the area. In certain cases, such as the historic railroad grade within the Tri-Pro property, some original railroad rails crafted nearly one hundred years ago remain. However, the archaeologists concluded these areas have been compromised such that the proposed project would not directly affect their present state. Since the archaeological study found that the proposed project is not going to affect any of the historical assets within the project area, negative impacts are not anticipated. The location of the TCP, indicated by the KTOI as a culturally sensitive site, was not released to the public. However, the KTOI has indicated that the project will not negatively impact this site. Thus, no mitigation is warranted or proposed.

3.5 Biological Resources

3.5.1 Affected Environment

There are a variety of species of terrestrial vegetation, fish and wildlife present within the project area that may be temporarily impacted by the construction process. Permanent impacts to local flora and fauna will be limited to specific footprints of the proposed structures and water tank access road and Old Diamond Mill road improvements. Vegetation, fisheries and wildlife, and threatened and endangered species will be addressed individually in this section.

3.5.1.1 Vegetation

The project area has a multitude of varieties of small habitats including small forested areas, freshwater wetland areas, and grassy fields. North of U.S. Highway 2, areas of grassy, undulating rangeland transitioning to open stands of forest land will be permanently cleared for the purpose of access road and water tank construction. The approximate 1.63 acres of forested areas consist of mostly open stands Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) tree species with understories of native bushes. The construction of the water tank access road and the removal of trees and grasses at the proposed water tank site and parking area will constitute the majority of the impact on vegetation north of U.S Highway 2. Trench along the north ROW of U.S Highway 2 will temporarily affect grassy vegetation within the private pasture land. While several permanent structures will be constructed north of U.S Highway 2, there will be only a minor impact on the existing vegetation. South of U.S. Highway 2 the existing land is sporadically developed with pockets of forest, emergent freshwater wetland, and grassy pasture areas. The majority of the proposed water and sewer line trenching will be located in and adjacent to existing roads and road ROWs, railroad ROWs and other previously disturbed areas, such as vacant lots. Permanent

impacts to vegetation south of U.S. Highway 2 will largely be confined to the footprints of the proposed pumpstation electrical building and adjacent concrete propane tank pad and pumphouse and Old Diamond Mill road widening.

3.5.1.2 Fisheries and Wildlife

Native fauna species that may be impacted during the construction process include whitetail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), Canada goose (*Branta Canadensis*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). There are numerous species of fish in the Pend Oreille River including northern pike (*Esox lucius*), largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*). The majority of impacts to local fish and wildlife as a direct result of the project will be limited to the affects of increased traffic as a result of the construction process.

3.5.1.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

There are currently 22 endangered or threatened plant and animal species in the State of Idaho. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified several threatened and endangered species within Bonner County, including: canadian lynx (*Lynx Canadanesis*), gray wolf (*Canis Lupus*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), Selkirk mountain caribou, (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), and bull trout (*salvelinus confuentus*). See Exhibit 6 for further information on threatened and endangered species. Based on information provided the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Idaho State Fish and Game, and given the close proximity of the project area to the City of Oldtown, we do not anticipate any endangered species within the project boundaries. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identifies the section of the Pend Oreille River at the project area as an area that is inhabited by threatened bull trout (*salvelinus confuentus*) and is a designated critical habitat for this species.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

3.5.2.1 Vegetation Consequences

The project will temporarily impact areas of vegetation in locations where trenching occurs outside of the roadway. In areas north of U.S. Highway 2 the construction of the access road and the removal of approximately 1.63 acres of trees at the proposed water tank site and access road site will constitute the majority of the permanent impact to the existing vegetation. Approximately 1.00 acre of grassy undulating rangeland will be permanently impacted by construction of the proposed water tank access road. And approximately 1.52 acres of grassy undulating rangeland will be temporarily impacted as a result of water line installation. See the Habitat Map in Exhibit 6 for more information. South of U.S. Highway 2, the proposed pumphouse and Old Diamond Mill road improvements will require approximately 0.31 acres of brushy undulating areas be permanently removed. Approximately 0.51 acres and 1.29 acres of undulating grassy area will be temporarily cleared as part of phase 1 and 2 water and sewer line installation, respectively.

3.5.2.2 Fisheries and Wildlife Consequences

Negative impacts to wildlife and fisheries will be the result of the construction. Increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic may have temporary effects on nesting populations of killdeer and Canadian geese. The proposed 12" boring for the water and sewer lines crossing at the Pend Oreille River is not expected to have a significant impact on fisheries populations. The proposed water and sewer line boring will occur approximately 20' below the river bed to ensure no disturbance or vibration occurs at the river bed while allowing the proposed water and sewer lines to be embedded with native soil. As the majority of the project area is in close proximity to the City of Oldtown and U.S. Highway 2 the construction of the project is not expected to adversely affect any of the resident wildlife and will only marginally increase the existing impacts on resident wildlife from human activity. Minor impacts on wildlife are expected as a result of the proposed permanent structures since the majority of the proposed structures are located south of U.S. Highway 2 and in a previously developed area. Upon completion of the proposed construction process, there will not be further impacts on resident wildlife directly related to the proposed project.

3.5.2.3 Threatened and Endangered Species Consequences

Any possible negative impacts on threatened and endangered species and critical habitat will be limited to the construction phase of the project. Bull trout is the single threatened species identified as inhabiting the project area. We do not anticipate any impacts on other identified endangered and threatened species as a result of project construction. Additionally, disturbance to bull trout is not expected to be significant at any time during the project. The proposed 12" diameter boring for the water and sewer lines crossing at the Pend Oreille River will be located approximately 20' below the river bed to ensure no disturbance or vibration occurs at the river bed while allowing the proposed water and sewer lines to be embedded within native soil. Upon completion of the proposed construction process, there will not be further impacts on any threatened species or critical habitat directly related to the proposed project.

3.5.3 Mitigation

3.5.3.1 Vegetation Mitigation

The project will temporarily impact areas of vegetation in locations where trenching occurs outside of the roadway. Minor impacts on grasses will occur throughout the proposed project area during construction activities. All disturbed areas located outside of or adjacent to existing roads would be top-soiled and seeded with an appropriate seed mixture conducive to easy maintenance to prevent erosion. Tree removal to facilitate project construction will be limited to building footprints and areas where water and sewer line construction is located outside the existing and proposed roads (See Exhibit 6 Habitat Map). As indicated above, tree removal will consist of clearing mostly Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine species with understories of native bushes within the 0.92 acres of land at the tank site and approximately 0.71 acres for the access road. Tree removal in these areas is not expected to be significant as the trees and bushes are species common

to the project area and clearing will be limited to an approximate 1.63 acres of land. Because the majority of the proposed alignment is located within road ROW's already cleared of trees, trees removed as a result of the project construction is not expected to be significant and will not be replanted as the existing suburban environment has sparse existing tree cover. The overall impacts to vegetation from the water and sewer line trenching, construction of the access road and water tank, and the construction of the proposed pumphouse would not be considered significant.

3.5.3.2 Fisheries and Wildlife Mitigation

Minor impacts on local populations of wildlife will occur during the construction process within the project area. However, the overall impacts to wildlife will only marginally exceed the present level of impacts as a result of human activities. Thus, the temporary impacts to wildlife would not be considered significant. Long term impacts on wildlife habitat will be limited to construction of permanent, above-ground structures such as the proposed water tank and access road. Trees removed to facilitate installation of these permanent structures will not be replanted as the existing suburban environment is sparsely tree covered. Permanent impacts to wildlife habitat as a result of the project are not expected to be significant. Upon completion of the proposed water and sewer line trenching, construction of the access road and water tank, proposed pumphouse, and other structures there will not be further impacts on resident wildlife directly related to the proposed project.

3.5.3.3 Threatened and Endangered Species Mitigation

Project construction and use is not expected to impact any of the threatened and endangered species listed above with exception of the bull trout. However, the proposed 12" boring for the water and sewer lines crossing at the Pend Oreille River will have sufficient depth to ensure no disturbance or vibration at the river channel while allowing the proposed water and sewer lines to be embedded within native soil. Silt fencing will be installed below the bore locations to ensure bore tailings are not deposited in the Pend Oreille River. Additionally, care will be taken to avoid any shoreline damage. The overall impacts to fish species including the bull trout and critical habitat during the construction phase of the project will not exceed the present level of impacts resulting from current human activities. With the exception of the proposed river crossing, all construction activities will not take place near any tributaries or adjacent to the Pend Oreille River. Thus, the impacts from the proposed project on existing bull trout or other fisheries populations within the Pend Oreille River will have no effect.

3.6 Water Quality Issues

3.6.1 Affected Environment

3.6.1.1 Surface Water

The project area lies within the Pend Oreille watershed. The Pend Oreille River west of the Albeni Falls dam has been classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Section 303(d) water system (See Exhibit 7). The EPA indicates that the

Pend Oreille River is classified as such due to gas supersaturation, total phosphorus content, and temperature pollution. Currently, wastewater from the residences and businesses in West Bonner Water and Sewer District and the City of Newport flow to the Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant where the treated effluent is discharged into the Pend Oreille River. The Newport WWTP is currently operating at approximately ½ of its 500,000 GPD design capacity and has met its discharge permit requirements for the last 10 years. None of the listed EPA pollutants are associated with the Newport WWTP. The wastewater generated by the existing and future residences and businesses in the Albeni area will flow downslope through proposed 4" service lines into the mainlines. From the proposed mainlines the wastewater will be pumped across the Pend Oreille River to an interconnection with the existing West Bonner Water and Sewer District sewer system. Once the wastewater from the Albeni area reaches the proposed interconnection, it will then flow to the existing Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Within the project area there are areas classified as freshwater emergent wetlands, fresh water ponds, and freshwater forested/shrub wetlands. These wetlands indicate a relatively shallow ground water level and the presence of a shallow restrictive soil stratum (See Exhibit 7). Also, there are no tributaries within the project area that discharge in the Pend Oreille River. As there are no tributary crossings, project construction will have a minimal, if any, negative impact on any surface water present in the project area, including the Pend Oreille River and adjacent wetlands. As discussed in the wetlands section of this report there will be mitigated effects at the access road location north of U.S. Highway 2 and there may be temporary impacts on areas adjacent to the wetlands and in areas where the surface water table is low. However the temporary negative affects to the wetlands and surface water in those areas are expected to be insignificant.

As shown in Exhibit 1, the proposed water and sewer lines will cross below the Pend Oreille River to facilitate the interconnection to the existing water and sewer system for the City of Oldtown. The proposed Pend Oreille River crossing will be completed by directional boring below the existing river bed. The proposed directional boring will minimize any impacts on the Pend Oreille River water quality when compared with other methods of completing the river crossing.

3.6.1.2 Ground Water

With a relatively shallow, confining stratum and shallow ground water in much of the project area, the proposed project will allow existing residents an option to switch from individual drainfields to a more reliable and environmentally friendly method of wastewater disposal. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates that the ground water depths in the project area are relatively shallow in areas immediately north of U.S Highway 2 and in much of the Tri-Pro Mill property south of U.S. Highway 2. In areas south the U.S. Highway 2 route, the ground water ranges in depth from approximately 0.5' to 6' below the existing ground surface in February to May (See Exhibit 7). The NRCS also indicates that an additional ground water table exists in the majority of the low lying project area and ranges from 31' to 46' deep (See Exhibit 7).

Several areas near and adjacent to the wetlands and in the low lying areas near U.S. Highway 2 ROW and Tri-Pro Mill property will likely have shallow levels of ground water and dewatering will be required during trenching and structure excavation. Additionally, the existing drainfields in the project area influence the ground water from which the area water wells are supplied. The proposed project will allow the existing residents to have access to a higher quality of water while removing any influence from the existing drainfields to the local ground water.

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

3.6.2.1 Surface Water

Direct impacts to the surface water may occur during the construction process as a result of trenching or boring locations for the proposed project. Areas where these actions may occur include trenching locations adjacent to ponds and at the river boring location. Potential impacts likely might include increased water turbidity and suspended solids. Additionally, upon connection to the existing sewer system, the wastewater from the project area will cause the flow to the existing Newport WWTP to increase by as much as 75,000 GPD. The additional flow increase from current and future residents, while remaining within the 500,000 GPD design capacity of the WWTP, will increase the amount of treated effluent that is released in the Pend Oreille River. The Newport WWTP is currently operating at approximately ½ of its 500,000 GPD design capacity and has met its discharge permit requirements for the last 10 years. The addition of the proposed project to the existing wastewater system will not change the Newport WWTP permit requirements. While total loading will increase as a result of the increased effluent discharged from the Newport WWTP in the Pend Oreille River, the proposed project is necessary to facilitate growth in the community. The increase in effluent from the proposed project will remain within the requirements of the EPA and Washington Department of Ecology and within the current discharge permit requirements. Centralizing and treating wastewater from the Albeni area before introducing it to the surrounding environment will improve surface water quality within the project area when compared to the existing drainfield applications.

3.6.2.2 Ground Water

Direct impacts to the ground water may occur during the construction process as a result of trenching, structure excavation, or boring for the proposed project. As stated above, ground water quality will ultimately improve as a result of the discontinued use of drainfields in the Albeni area. For this reason we anticipate that the proposed project will be a total improvement to the quality of the ground water in the Albeni area.

3.6.3 Mitigation

3.6.3.1 Surface Water

The proposed directional boring at the Pend Oreille River crossing location will minimize any impacts on the Pend Oreille River water quality when compared with other methods of completing the river crossing. The directional boring method allows for efficient project construction while making the smallest possible impact on the river bed and

allowing the proposed piping to be secured in native soil. In order to mitigate any effects to the Pend Oreille River, silt fencing will be installed at the bore site between the boring location and the river shore. Any impact on the Pend Oreille River water quality as a result of the construction or continued use of the water and sewer lines is expected to be insignificant. Other potential impacts on surface water will be limited to impacts from equipment or trenching adjacent to ponds during the construction process. To mitigate these effects, silt fencing will be installed in areas where trenching is necessary near existing wetlands and ponds. While minor, temporary construction impacts on surface water within the project area may occur, any impacts are expected to be insignificant.

The addition of the proposed project to the existing wastewater system will not change the Newport WWTP discharge permit requirements. While a total loading increase as a result of the increased effluent discharged from the Newport WWTP, the proposed project is necessary to facilitate growth in the community. The increase in effluent from the proposed project will remain within the requirements of the EPA and Washington Department of Ecology and will remain within the current discharge permit requirements. Thus any effects from future effluent as a result of the proposed project will be mitigated as much as required by State and Federal authorities.

3.6.3.2 Ground Water

With the replacement the existing drainfields and implementation of a centralized sewer system, sewage will no longer be introduced to the environment within the project area. Thus, ground water quality within the project area will ultimately improve and no mitigation is required.

3.7 Socio-Economic/Environmental Justice Issues

3.7.1 Affected Environment

The majority of the proposed water and sewer mainlines will be constructed in or adjacent to existing roadways and easements. And the proposed water and sewer buildings and facilities will be constructed on land owned by the City. Thus, the proposed project will not result in relocation or destruction of any existing houses regardless of income or ownership. The proposed project will also indirectly facilitate light industrial and commercial business establishment and the construction of new homes within multiple income brackets. Additionally, the proposed project will give existing residences and businesses the option of switching from individual drainfields to a centralized sewer system in an area where the shallow water table and confining soil stratum increase the chances of drainfield failure or inundation.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

The proposed centralized sewer collection system will provide a reliable service to the existing and future residents of the Albeni area. The Albeni area has relatively shallow ground water and a shallow confining stratum which is not conducive to optimum operation for a typical gravity drainfield. The centralization of the wastewater system in

this area will allow for future residences for people with low, middle, and high incomes while positively affecting the local environment. The project will also facilitate the introduction of light industrial and commercial facilities, which will provide employment and business opportunities to residents of the area.

3.7.3 Mitigation

The Albeni area water and sewer extension project will provide a reliable sewer service and higher quality water to the future and existing residents of the Albeni area and facilitate commercial growth in the area while improving the quality of the ground and surface water and the local environment. For these reasons, the proposed project is anticipated to provide an overall improvement the socio-economic status in the Albeni area.

3.8 Miscellaneous Issues

3.8.1 Noise Levels

The proposed project would result in minor short term construction related noise impacts in the Albeni area. Any noise related impacts would be the result of the operation of heavy equipment. However, since the proposed project area is located adjacent to U.S. Highway 2 and the Tri-Pro Cedar Mill, the current noise levels in the project area are consistent with an urban setting. There may be impacts from the construction noise level on several residences and persons participating in outdoor recreation on the Pend Oreille River or at the nearby public boat launch. Noise produced during project construction is not expected to be significant when compared to the existing noise level in the majority of the project area. However, in order to reduce any potential impacts on the local populace, construction activities would be conducted during normal business hours.

3.8.2 Air Quality

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has outlined six criteria pollutants which include: ozone, lead, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Individual counties are monitored for each of these ambient air pollutants and when a county is found to be free of a specific pollutant, it is referred to as "attainment" for that pollutant. Based on information provided by the EPA for Bonner County, Kootenai County and the City of Spokane, it appears that the project area is located in an attainment county for ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide (See Exhibit 8). The EPA also indicates that Idaho has no areas of non-attainment for the air quality pollutants lead and sulfur dioxide. Of the primary pollutants listed by the EPA large particulate matter will be the primary air pollutant discharged during the proposed project construction. Particulate Matter approximately 10 micrometers in size or PM₁₀, includes dust, dirt, soot, smoke and liquid droplets directly emitted into that are by sources such as construction activity, fires and natural windblown dust. PM₁₀ contributions due to the proposed project would generally be the result of equipment operation during the construction process and would generally be limited to dust. Techniques to minimize PM₁₀ particles would be employed during construction activities.

Mitigation measures that may be taken include wetting of the construction area and avoidance of extended periods for idling construction equipment. With these mitigation techniques, any construction related impacts to air quality are not expected to be significant.

4.0 Summary of Mitigation

Based on the analysis of the proposed project, it is concluded that the installation of a centralized water and sewer system in the Albeni area would satisfy the expected and current needs for development within the Albeni area. There will be no impacts on formally classified or important farmland or cultural resources. Impacts on delineated wetland areas will be mitigated and confined to the construction of the water tank access road. Specifically, wetland fill as proposed is compliant with the limits, terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit 12. The majority of impacts to the existing terrestrial vegetation and wildlife are expected to be temporary and minor in nature. Permanent impacts to vegetation will be realized north of U.S. Highway 2 at the water tank, water tank parking area, access road and south of U.S. Highway 2 at the proposed pumphouse site, sewer pumpstation electrical building and adjacent concrete propane tank pad. Trenching occurring outside of existing roadways will be seeded to prevent erosion and improve appearance. The proposed project has incorporated best management practices such as minimizing ground disturbance, washing off-road equipment prior to entering construction sites, and seeding (with a native seed mixture), mulching, and fertilizing of disturbed areas to reduce weed establishment and prevent erosion will be implemented. The design has minimized or avoided potential adverse impacts to the maximum extent possible. This project will have no effect on ESA listed species. There are no significant impacts expected from construction with respect to wetlands, vegetation, surface water, floodplains, and cultural resources, that otherwise will not be mitigated. The majority of the negative impacts are associated with construction of the proposed project; however, when mitigation measures outlined above are applied, there is a finding of no significant impact for the construction and implementation of this project. Additionally, the discontinued use of separate sewer systems in the Albeni area is expected to provide an overall improvement to local ground and surface water quality while improving the socio-economic status. All necessary permits will be obtained prior to project construction. As such, no additional mitigation is proposed or warranted.

5.0 Compliance of Preferred Alternative with Environmental Protection Statutes and Other Environmental Requirements

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668, 668 note, 669a-668d. *In compliance.* This Act prohibits the taking or possession of and commerce in bald and golden eagles, with limited exceptions for the scientific or exhibition purposes, for religious purposes of Indian tribes, or for the protection of wildlife, agriculture or preservation of the species. Coordinate with the Service and the appropriate state agencies will continue to avoid taking the species during construction activities, and will follow the Service's guidelines regarding eagle nests. There are no known bald or golden

eagle nests within the proposed project area and therefore, this project likely will have no affect on bald or golden eagles.

Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 185711-7, et seq. *In compliance.* The purpose of this Act is to protect public health and welfare by the control of air pollution at its source. Some temporary emission releases are expected during construction activities; however, *de minimis* levels would not be exceeded and air quality is not expected to be impacted to any measurable degree.

Clean Water Act, as amended. (Federal Water Pollution Control Act) 33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq. *In compliance.* The objective of this Act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters (33 U.S.C. 1251). The Corps regulates the discharges of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This permitting authority applies to all waters of the U.S., including navigable waters and wetlands. The selection of disposal sites for dredged or fill material is done in accordance with Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, which were developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (see 40 CFR Part 230). General permits are a type of authorization that is issued on a nationwide or regional basis for a category of activities. Activities that are authorized under general permits must be substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual or cumulative adverse affects on the aquatic environment. Nationwide permits are a type of general permit that authorize certain specified activities nationwide that have been authorized after meeting requirements of NEPA and extensive coordination with the EPA and other federal agencies. No significant impacts to wetlands would result from the proposed action.

Endangered Species Act, as amended. 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq. *In compliance.* Section 7

(16 U.S.C. 1536) states that all Federal agencies shall, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, ensure that any action authorized, funded, or otherwise carried out by them do not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The proposed project has incorporated best management practices and has minimized or avoided potential adverse impacts. This project will have no effect on ESA listed species.

Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898). *In compliance.* Federal agencies shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States. The project does not disproportionately impact minority or low-income populations.

Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 U.S.C. 4201, Et seq. *In compliance.* Farmland will not be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 460-1(12), et.seq. *In compliance.* The Act establishes the policy that consideration be given to the opportunities for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement in the investigating and planning of any Federal navigation, flood control, reclamation, hydroelectric, or multi-purpose water resource project, whenever any such project can reasonably serve either or both purposes consistently. No coordinated use with existing or planned Federal, state or local public recreation development was considered when the existing wastewater system was originally constructed, and improvements will not increase or decrease any recreational use.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. 16 U.S.C., 661 et seq. *In compliance.* The FWCA requires governmental agencies, including the Corps, to coordinate activities so that adverse affects of fish and wildlife will be minimized when water bodies are proposed for modification. No modifications to any water bodies are proposed as part of this project.

Flood Plain Management (E.O. 11988) 42 CFR 26951. *In compliance.* The purpose of this Order is that each agency shall provide leadership and shall take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by flood plains in carrying out its responsibilities for (1) acquiring, managing, and disposing of Federal lands and facilities; (2) providing Federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and (3) conducting Federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land resources planning, regulating, and licensing activities. Because the majority of the project includes buried pipelines, the proposed project would have only limited impact on flood plain management.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712) as amended. *In compliance.* The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 is the domestic law that affirms, or implements, the United States' commitment to four international conventions with Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia for the protection of shared migratory bird resources. The MBTA governs the taking, killing, possessing, transporting, and importing of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests. The take of all migratory birds is governed by the MBTA's regulation of taking migratory birds for educational, scientific, and recreational purposes and requiring harvest to be limited to levels that prevent over-utilization. Executive Order 13186 (2001) directs executive agencies to take certain actions to implement the Act. Migratory birds will likely not be impacted as a result of the proposed project.

National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470a, et seq. *In compliance.* Federal agencies having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking shall take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or

eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. In a letter dated June 29, 2010, Mr. Travis Pitkin, SHPO Archaeologist advised that 'there are no individually significant cultural resources identified within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). However, the potential for recovering cultural resources always exists. Thus, caution will be exercised during all phases of work in order to minimize any disturbance to cultural resources. All contractors will be explicitly warned about this possibility of discovery and instructed that if any resources are found, he or she shall stop work and contact SHPO immediately.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq. *In compliance.* This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the proposed action. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Noise Control Act of 1972, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 4901 to 4918. *In compliance.* This Act establishes a national policy to promote an environment for all Americans free from noise that jeopardizes their health and welfare. Federal agencies are required to limit noise emissions to within compliance levels. Noise emission levels at the project site will temporarily increase above current levels due to construction; however, appropriate measures will be taken to keep the noise level within compliance levels (e.g., performing construction during daylight hours, avoiding idling of machinery when not in use, etc.).

Rivers and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. 401, et seq. *Not applicable.* A Section 10 Permit is not required as no work would occur in a designated waterway.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1271, et seq. *In compliance.* The area with in which the proposed project would occur is not designated as a wild or scenic river.

Note: Sec 10 does apply
and will be evaluated as
part of Nationwide 12 Permit
(Ch. Soule)