

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
GRANITE / REEDER SEWER SYSTEM PROJECT
NORDMAN, IDAHO**

As a recipient of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Special Appropriation Act grant funds, the Granite / Reeder Sewer System project is subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review as required under 40CFR Part 6. The following activities will be undertaken in the Granite-Reeder project:

- Installation of a grinder pump and related collection line at each residence in the District
- Installation of a centralized pressure transmission line
- Construction of wastewater treatment and storage lagoons
- Installation of a spray irrigation system

The EPA has reviewed the Environmental Review Record prepared on behalf of the Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District, evaluating the impacts of the proposed project on the human and natural environment. EPA has determined that the proposed project does not meet the criteria for preparing an Environmental Impact statement (40 CFR Part 6.107) and has, instead, prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project. The public may view the Environmental Assessment, FONSI and Facility Plan upon which they are based at:

Attn: Vince Aguirre, Chairman
Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District
HCO-1 Box 456
Nordman, ID 83848
Phone: (208) 443-2550

To receive a hard copy by mail, please contact the NEPA Compliance Coordinator, Hanh Shaw at EPA Region 10 (OWW-130), 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101-1128, shaw.hanh@epa.gov, (206) 553-0171.



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101**

Reply To
Attn. Of: OWW-130

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

To all interested government agencies,
public groups, and individuals:

In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) procedures for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 40 CFR Part 6, EPA has completed an environmental review of the following proposed action:

**Granite / Reeder
Sanitary Sewer System Project**

EPA Role and Responsibility:

As a recipient of EPA Special Appropriation Act grant funds, the project is subject to NEPA review as required under EPA's implementing NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 6 Subpart E.

Background Synopsis:

The Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District includes densely developed areas along about 3.5 miles of shoreline along Priest Lake. Homes and businesses in the District currently use individual on-site septic tanks/drainfields and other subsurface disposal systems, many of which do not meet current standards.

These existing substandard on-site wastewater treatment units pose a substantial public health risk through the contamination of nearby drinking water wells; in addition, inadequate on-site treatment poses an environmental risk due to the migration of contaminants into nearby pristine Priest Lake.

Purpose and Need of Action:

The proposed project will correct the public health and water quality problems created by these systems. The local residents have shown during the planning process that it is their desire to construct an infrastructure which will allow the community to remain viable. The purpose of

the proposed project is to provide safe, reliable, long-term, and cost-effective wastewater collection and treatment and a permanent solution to meeting federal and state regulations.

Preferred Agency Alternative and Environmentally Preferred Alternative:

EPA's Agency Preferred Alternative includes the construction of a community wastewater treatment system consisting of on-site positive displacement grinder pumps, a pressure collection system, lined lagoons for wastewater treatment and storage, and a land application system for final disposal of treated wastewater from the District.

It is proposed to disinfect and land apply the treated wastewater to a 23-acre forested site during the growing season (May to September). The proposed site for the wastewater treatment plant (lagoons and forested wastewater land application area) is owned by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS); Congress has approved the USFS sale of the property to the District. This transaction has not been completed yet.

In accordance with NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 1508.13, the findings of the Environmental Assessment (EA) are incorporated by reference. The EA contains the detailed description of the preferred alternative, other alternatives evaluated, and the predicted environmental effects of all alternatives evaluated.

Other Action Alternatives Considered:

Under the **No Action Alternative**, many of the dwellings in the District would continue to discharge inadequately treated wastewater to groundwater, remaining out of compliance with State and federal regulations, and would continue to pose environmental and public health risks. With the continued expected development in the District, this situation would be severely exacerbated.

Action Alternatives Considered but Rejected from Further Analysis:

1. **On-site Collection Units, Community Gravity/ Pressure Collection System with Lagoon and Land Application.** This system would consist of a combined pressure/ gravity system. Where topography allows a gravity collection line would collect sewage from users and allow it to gravity flow to a lift station located at a lower location. Flow collected at the lift station would be pumped either to another lift station or directly to the treatment site, depending on the system's layout. There are no immediate benefits observed for this system and the cost is greater than that for the preferred alternative.
2. **Regional Treatment at Outlet Bay.** Regionalization would primarily include construction of a pump station and transmission line fourteen miles south to the Outlet Bay facility. As the cost for regionalization far exceeds what would be considered "a reasonable cost" for adding a wastewater treatment facility to the existing area, this alternative was eliminated from further consideration.

3. **Subsurface Community Drainfields.** This treatment option was eliminated from further consideration due to the adverse site conditions of the available treatment sites and the high cost of construction. For a community system with design flows above 2500 gallons per day (gpd), such as Granite Reeder, a large-scale absorption system is required. High groundwater and heavy vegetation make this option economically unfeasible.
4. **Drip Irrigation.** A lack of historical data regarding the use of these systems in extreme winter climates, coupled with adverse site conditions (high groundwater, heavy vegetation) eliminates this treatment and disposal option from further consideration.
5. **Packaged Treatment Plants.** Since packaged treatment plants are substantially more expensive to develop, operate, and maintain for smaller communities than other technologies, this treatment option was eliminated.

Please refer to the Facility Plan, Section 4.0, or the Environmental Assessment, Section 3.0, for a detailed description of the alternatives considered but rejected from further analysis.

Mitigation Measures:

In the environmental evaluation, emphasis was placed on site-specific environmental resources potentially at risk due to the project as proposed. Extensive site surveys for wetlands and threatened and endangered species were completed by a biological consultant. Direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed project have been explored.

The following mitigation measures to lessen the potential for adverse environmental impact to environmental resources shall become binding grant conditions upon the Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District. If the grantee fails to comply with the grant conditions (i.e. implement mitigation measures), the responsible official within EPA may consider applying any of the sanctions specified in 40 CFR 31.43 and 40 CFR Part 6.512 (a,b).

Mitigation Measures. Mitigation measures to minimize adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed project include:

- Construction best management practices for erosion and sediment control shall be implemented during construction to minimize the potential for turbidity runoff;
- Any vegetation disturbed as a result of this project shall be replaced in-kind with native species to prevent invasion of noxious plants or weeds;
- In residential areas, all construction will be performed weekdays during daytime hours from 8:00am to 5:00pm, and signs and fences will be erected to warn nearby residents of construction activities;
- In the event that materials of cultural or archaeological significance are discovered during construction, work shall be temporarily halted, the site secured

and EPA, DEQ, the Idaho State Historical and Preservation Officer, and potentially affected Tribes shall be notified and consulted;

- Potential impacts to Bald Eagles from construction activities shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible;
- Equipment operated in or adjacent to streams shall be maintained in a good state of repair and shall have no damaged hoses, fitting, lines, tanks, etc., that release or may release pollutants that could be washed into the streams;
- Construction equipment shall be equipped with hazardous materials spill recovery kits and construction crews shall be trained in their use;
- Fugitive dust from the construction site shall be controlled using BMPs and shall be in compliance with applicable laws; and
- EPA shall be contacted if there are any significant changes to the proposed project.

Summary:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) titled: *Environmental Assessment Granite / Reeder Sanitary Sewer System, June 2002* by Welch Comer & Associates has been prepared to evaluate the potential short and long term impacts due to construction of the proposed project. The EA is an attachment to the *Facility Planning Document, Granite / Reeder Sanitary Sewer System, June 2002* by Welch Comer & Associates.

Based on the EA and consideration of the mitigation measures that would be binding grant conditions on the grantee, and in accordance with the guidelines for determining the significance of proposed federal actions (40 CFR Part 1508.27) and EPA criteria for initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (40 CFR Part 6.605), EPA has concluded that the proposed Granite / Reeder Sanitary Sewer System Project will not result in a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

In accordance with NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 1508.13, the findings of the EA are hereby incorporated by reference. The proposed project will not significantly affect land use patterns or population, wetlands or flood plains, threatened or endangered species, farmlands, ecologically critical areas, historic resources, air quality, water quality, noise levels, fish and wildlife resources, nor will it conflict with approved local, regional, or state land use plans or policies. The proposal also conforms to all applicable federal statutes and executive orders. As a result of these findings, EPA has determined that an EIS will not be prepared.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this FONSI may be submitted, within 30 days of the above issuance date of this FONSI, to the following address:

Hanh Shaw
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, OWW-130
Seattle, WA 98101
Fax: (206) 553-0165
Email: shaw.hanh@epamail.epa.gov

Additional copies of the EA can be obtained by calling Hanh Shaw at (206) 553-0171 or are available for public review at the following location between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm:

~~Mr. Jon Cantamessa, Chairman
Shoshone County Commission
700 Bank Street
Wallace, Idaho 83873-2348
Phone: (208) 752-3331~~

Kevin McNeill, P.E.
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N Hilton Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
Phone: (208) 373-0452

No administrative action will be taken for at least 30 days after the release of this FONSI. EPA will fully consider all comments before taking final action.



Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Water & Watersheds



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2006

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Regional Office

Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
Toni Hardesty, Director

August 15, 2006

Ms. Hanh Shaw
EPA Region 10, OW-130
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Granite Reeder Sewer System Project.

Dear Ms. Shaw:

We have written a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the referenced wastewater project based on the information submitted in a Facility Plan and related Environmental Assessment. The exact titles of these documents are:

- *Wastewater Facilities Plan for the Granite Reeder Sanitary Sewer System, Priest Lake, Idaho.* Welch Comer and Associates, June 2002.
- *Environmental Assessment for the Granite Reeder Sanitary Sewer System, Priest Lake, Idaho.* Welch Comer and Associates, June 2002.

Copies of a letter on EPA letterhead for Mr. Michael F. Gearheard to sign, the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), a public notification document relative to the FONSI, and a copy of the Environmental Assessment are included herein.

We ask that Mr. Gearheard sign the letter and forward it and the FONSI notification document to the Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District.

Please refer any comments to Kevin McNeill in our State Office at 373-0452.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry N. Burnell".

Barry N. Burnell
Administrator, Water Quality Division

c: Kevin McNeill, DEQ State Office
John Tindall, DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional Office

Enclosures (4)



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-130

Vince Aguirre, Chairman
Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District
HCO-1 Box 456
Nordman, ID 83848

RE: EPA Acceptance of the Environmental Review Report for the Granite / Reeder Sanitary Sewer System Project, Priest Lake, Idaho

Dear Mr. Aguirre:

This letter is written in regard to the Environmental Review Report for the Granite / Reeder Sanitary Sewer System Project submitted by Welch Comer & Associates, Inc. to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Upon review of the Environmental Review Report, the EPA hereby accepts the Environmental Review Report as our Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared and is enclosed with this letter. The FONSI serves as EPA's decision that the project will not have an adverse or significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

As a condition of this approval, the NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 6.400 require the applicant (the Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District), or your consulting firm as the City's representative, to publish a notice in a local newspaper of community-wide circulation indicating the availability of the supporting documentation for public inspection. A sample public notice is enclosed for your use. The timing for publication of the notice should be coordinated with Hanh Shaw, NEPA Compliance Coordinator, at (206) 553-0171. An affidavit of the public notice in a local newspaper should then be sent to Hanh Shaw at 1200 Sixth Avenue, OW-130, Seattle, WA 98101 with a copy to Kevin McNeill at 1410 N Hilton Street, Boise, Idaho 83706.

In further compliance with 40 CFR Part 6.400 (f), Shoshone County will be responsible for making available to the public and distributing to known interested parties a copy of the EA and FONSI. The EA and FONSI should be sent to known interested parties on the same day the public notice is to be published in the local paper. There is a 30-day comment/appeal period for the EA/FONSI. We cannot process any grant funding requests until the mandatory 30-day comment period on the EA and FONSI has concluded. If no comments are received, the EPA grant project officer will be notified that the project can proceed. If comments are received, we will not be able to proceed until those comments are dealt with appropriately.

Please feel free to contact Hanh Shaw, NEPA Compliance Coordinator, at (206) 553-0171 with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Water

Enclosures

bcc: Hanh Shaw, EPA
Bryan Yim, EPA
Cyndi Grafe, EPA
Kevin McNeill, IDEQ

<u>CONCURRENCES</u>						
<u>Initials:</u>						
<u>Name:</u>	Shaw	Johnson	Koch	Larsen	Smith	
<u>Date:</u>						



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REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101**

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consideration due to the adverse site conditions of the available treatment sites and the high cost of construction. For a community system with design flows above 2500 gpd, such a Granite Reeder, a large-scale absorption system is required. High groundwater and heavy vegetation make this option economically unfeasible.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Seattle, WA 98101
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Email: shaw.hanh@epamail.epa.gov

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Shoshone County Commission
700 Bank Street
Wallace, Idaho 83873-2348
Phone: (208) 752-3331

Kevin McNeill, P.E.
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N Hilton Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
Phone: (208) 373-0452

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Michael F. Gearheard, Director

Office of Water

CONCURRENCES						
Initials:						
Name:	Shaw	Johnson	Koch	Larsen	Gearheard	
Date:						

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
GRANITE / REEDER SEWER SYSTEM PROJECT**

NORDMAN, IDAHO

August 15, 2006

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Attn: Vince Aguirre, Chairman
Granite Reeder Water and Sewer District
HCO-1 Box 456
Nordman, ID 83848
Phone: (208) 443-2550

To receive a hard copy by mail, please contact the NEPA Compliance Coordinator, Hanh Shaw at EPA Region 10 (OW-130), 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101-3123, (206) 553-0171.

**GRANITE REEDER / FOREST SERVICE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OPTIONS**

3/20/2006

Larry Comer, Welch Comer & Associates
w/John Tindall - DEQ, and Tom Ball - USFS

