

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Concerning West Glendive Sewer System

The West Glendive wastewater treatment facility is owned and operated by Dawson County. The County provides sewer service to the residents and businesses via a public wastewater collection and treatment system. The West Glendive existing wastewater system consists of a central collection system, three different lift stations, and a two-cell lagoon treatment system with discharge of the wastewater to a wetland that at one time was a side channel of the Yellowstone River.

The County received a new wastewater discharge permit in 2009 which contained many new monitoring requirements, permit limits and a compliance schedule for system improvements. The County's existing treatment system has not and will not meet many of the existing and future treatment standards in the wastewater discharge permit. Due to the County's many permit violations, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued the County an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for their wastewater treatment facility. This AOC is a legal agreement between the County and the State, where the County has agreed to take corrective action and pay any associated penalties. The AOC is an acknowledgement that the County is violating the Water Quality Act.

To address the compliance schedule, AOC and the County's own concerns with the wastewater system, a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was completed. The report included a detailed analysis of the existing wastewater facilities and specifically identified deficiencies within the system. Alternatives were developed to correct the deficiencies. Alternatives considered viable were analyzed in detail and ranked using various weighted criteria. These criteria included: technical feasibility, environmental impacts, life cycle costs, public health and safety, operation and maintenance and public opinion. Considering all these criteria, the County has chosen to connect the West Glendive collection system to the City of Glendive's treatment system.

The County will install a new lift station and forcemain under the Yellowstone River to pump the County's wastewater to the City's system. This will eliminate the treatment process and all permit requirements from the County. The City of Glendive will be responsible treating the County's wastewater and for meeting all permit requirements. The County will continue to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lift stations and the collection system.

The City of Glendive is currently obtaining construction bids for a Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) plant sized to meet the needs of both the City and West Glendive's wastewater treatment needs. The plant is scheduled to start construction this summer.

West Glendive has yet to realize significant growth but some level of growth due to the oil boom appears to be likely. The County wants to plan for the real potential of growth but also does not want to build significant infrastructure based on growth projections that may not be realized. Connecting to the City's treatment system allows for significant flexibility from both a permitting and infrastructure perspective. The City's treatment plant does allow for modest growth but can also be easily upgraded if West Glendive and surrounding area does see

tremendous growth. The City's wastewater permit also has the added capacity to allow for this growth.

The County will abandon the existing treatment lagoons that are currently within the floodplain. This will eliminate West Glendive's discharge of poorly treated effluent to a wetland adjacent to the Yellowstone River and the strong odors that are associated with the lagoons. It will also allow the existing lagoons to be reclaimed and the land to be utilized for other beneficial purposes.

The project will solve the pending legal action being taken against the County in the form of an AOC from the DEQ Enforcement Division and provide the residents of the County with a long term solution to its wastewater needs.