

# RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

City of Stites, Idaho

NPDES Permit No.: ID-002034-6

Public Comment Period: February 27 - March 27, 2002

During the public comment period specified above, only the State of Idaho, Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted comments. This document summarizes the comments and the EPA responses to the comments.

1.     Comment:     IDEQ pointed out that the fact sheet described the segment of the South Fork of the Clearwater River that the facility discharges to is an Outstanding Resource Water. This segment is actually listed as a Special Resource Water.

          Response:   EPA has noted the comment in the permit file.
2.     Comment:     The commenter clarified that because the facility discharges to a water quality-limited water body, any interim increases in existing loads may result in the need for greater load reduction once a total maximum daily loading (TMDL) is developed and implemented.

          Response:   EPA has noted the comment. The permit has not been revised to include this language. EPA believes that noting the comment in the record is sufficient.
3.     Comment:     IDEQ requested that IDEQ participate in the selection of surface water monitoring stations.

          Response:   The permit has been revised to require that IDEQ participate in selection of the surface water monitoring stations.
4.     Comment:     IDEQ requested that monitoring for *E. coli* be reduced from five times per month to once per week based on potential economic hardship to the communities. In addition, the requirement for once per week will still ensure that 52 samples yearly will be collected.

          Response:   EPA agrees that 52 weekly samples per year will adequately ensure compliance with the Idaho water quality standard for *E. coli*. The permit has been revised to require monitoring for *E. coli* once per week instead of five times per month.

In addition to the changes discussed above, EPA has revised the permit (section IV.A.) to include a reopener to address the outcome of the final TMDL developed for the South Fork. Since the City of Stites Wastewater Treatment Plant is within the Nez Perce Reservation boundaries established under the Treaty of 1863, EPA did not request a water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. As part of issuing the permit, EPA did consider evaluations that the State provided as EPA determined that the permitted discharge complies with the federal Clean Water Act. By letter dated August 7, 2002, IDEQ confirmed that the terms and conditions of the City of Stites NPDES permit would not violate Idaho water quality standards.