



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street  
DENVER, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

June 6, 2013

Ref: 8P-W-TF

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**PROJECT:** Anaconda – Deer Lodge County West Valley Sewer Extension – Phase 1

**TO:** All Interested Government Agencies and the Public

<b><u>TOTAL COST:</u></b>	<b>\$2,572,100</b>
<b><u>EPA GRANT:</u></b>	<b>\$ 967,800</b>
<b><u>LOCAL SHARE:</u></b>	<b>\$1,604,300</b>

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for the above project.

The proposed Phase 1 West Valley project consists of a sewer extension for the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (ADLC) public wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). This first phase of the new sewer installation will extend westward from Anaconda city limits to Theatre Lane on the eastern edge of the West Valley town site (Valley View Subdivision) and provide service to 45 homes located along the north side of Montana Highway 1. These forty-five West Valley homes will be disconnected from their private on-site wastewater treatment systems and connected to the new sewer extension at homeowner's expense. The sewer extension project consists of the construction of the following components: (1) 2.4 miles of 12-inch sewer trunk installed within the former railroad right-of-way from the city of Anaconda, Montana, to the West Valley town site; (2) 1.2 miles of 12-inch diameter sewer main connecting the new West Valley trunk main to the existing ADLC sewer collection system at Main Street in Anaconda.

The homes and businesses in the valley west of Anaconda are currently served by individual wells and on-site wastewater systems. This West Valley area is located upgradient of Anaconda's public water supply wells and there is concern that contaminants from drainfields in the West Valley could negatively impact the city's drinking water supply. Anaconda's wellfield is located in one of the few areas available near the community where an adequate volume of high-quality groundwater can be developed and the city recognizes the need to protect this valuable resource. Another concern is that the individual wells serving homes and businesses in the West Valley area could be contaminated by surrounding onsite wastewater systems. The coarse-grained soils and high groundwater conditions that are prevalent in the West Valley area are not conducive to providing the most effective onsite wastewater treatment.

West Valley consists of two main housing areas: 1). Approximately 45 service connections along the north side of Highway 1 between Anaconda and the West Valley town site (Phase 1 of the project) and (2) 250 service connections within the West Valley town site.

The sewer extension project extends 4,000 feet through an area where wetlands may be impacted. This area used to be a railroad bed with borrow ditches on either side. The railroad tracts, ties and bed have been removed, lowering the previous ground surface by 2 to 3 feet. The refurbished area is still higher than the adjacent borrow ditches. Based on a preliminary field inspection, it is estimated that at most 1000 feet of wetlands could temporarily impacted during construction. Using a conservative estimate of a 20 foot width of disturbance, potential wetlands impacts would be less than one-half acre. Wetland disturbances of less than one-half acre can be covered under a Nationwide General Permit under section 404 of the Clean Water Act from the U.S. Corps of Engineers. All conditions and mitigation required in the 404 nationwide permit will be followed to minimize impacts.

The proposed route for the Phase 1 West Valley sewer extension is the former railroad bed corridor west of Anaconda and area north of the railroad behind the hospital through town. Atlantic Richfield has removed all visible mine waste. If any mine waste materials are encountered during trench excavation, ADLC's institutional controls procedures will be followed.

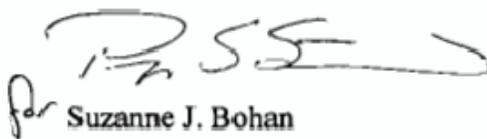
Overall, the review process did not indicate that significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement has been made. This action is taken on the basis of careful review of the Anaconda – Deer Lodge County West Valley Sewer Extension – Phase 1 Project Environmental Assessment prepared for this project. Copies of the document are available at the Anaconda - Deer Lodge County Courthouse at 800 South Main Street in Anaconda, or on line at: <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/region-8-nepa-compliance-documents-index>. Please contact Connie Ternes-Daniels, Interim Chief Executive for the County at (406) 563-to obtain a copy.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted for consideration by the EPA to:

Brian Friel  
US EPA, Region 8, 8P-W-TF  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202

After evaluating the comments received, EPA will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Sincerely,



for Suzanne J. Bohan  
Director, NEPA Compliance and Review Program  
Ecosystems Protection and Remediation