

**COMBINED NOTICE: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and NOTICE TO PUBLIC
OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS (FONSI/NOI/RROF)**

December 30, 2024

Town of Hysham
PO Box 228
Hysham, MT 59038
(406) 342-5544

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or before January 15, 2025, the above-named Town of Hysham will request the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC) to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) for the following project:

Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project

The project involves improvements to the Town of Hysham's existing Water Treatment Plant. This project will provide improved living conditions for 83 low and moderate-income families.

The project is located in Hysham, MT.

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named Town has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for the decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows:

The project site is strategically positioned over 2,000 feet from the nearest commercial airport runway, ensuring minimal impact from aircraft operations. It has been classified as a maintenance or attainment area, confirming that air quality aligns with federal standards and is not within a non-attainment zone. A comprehensive assessment of the area reveals no contaminants or toxic substances, further enhancing its environmental safety.

Moreover, the vicinity surrounding the water treatment plant is home to 19 animal species and two plant species that are considered species of concern. The proposed project will be limited to the existing footprint of the water treatment plant, effectively reducing any potential risks to endangered species. Additionally, within a one-mile radius of the project location, no hazards related to explosives or flammable materials have been detected.

The Town of Hysham owns the project site, which will not adversely affect local agricultural land or operations. However, it is essential to acknowledge that the Town of Hysham is located within a Zone D floodplain, which poses certain hazards, while the water treatment plant itself is situated approximately 400 feet from the Yellowstone River in Zone A which is susceptible to 100-year flood events. Culturally speaking, the Yucca Theatre, built in 1931 and recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, is also found in Hysham. The State Historic Preservation Office has determined that the project is unlikely to affect cultural

properties as long as there is no disturbance to structures older than fifty years. Additionally, the site benefits from being more than 1,000 feet away from major roadways, over 3,000 feet from railroads, and at least 15 miles from military or FAA-regulated civil airfields. While the project location does not contain Sole Source Aquifers, it is located near riparian zones and wetlands as identified by the National Wetlands Inventory.

Overall, these findings indicate that the proposed project site is environmentally sound, poses low risks to cultural and ecological resources, and is well-positioned in relation to infrastructure and regulatory standards.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-named Town. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of CDBG project funds.

Public Comments on Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Town of Hysham to the Town Hall on or before January 14, 2025. All such comments so received will be considered and the Town of Hysham will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

Release of Funds

The Town of Hysham will undertake the project described above with CDBG funds provided by DOC under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. The Town of Hysham is certifying to DOC that Mayor Ken Rolandson, Mayor, in his official capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that upon its approval, the Town of Hysham may use the CDBG funds and DOC will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to State Release of Funds

The Department of Commerce will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases:

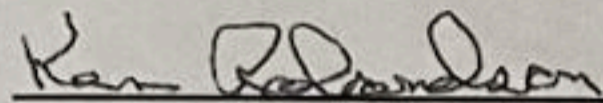
- (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer approved by the Department of Commerce;
- (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process;

(c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DOC; or

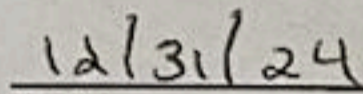
(d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental design.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, 301 S. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by DOC. No objection received after January 30, 2025, will be considered by DOC.



Ken Rolandson, Mayor



Date

502 Elliott Ave
Hysham, MT 59038