

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment
New Source Water Intake and Modification of Existing Source Water Intake
City of Laurel, Yellowstone County, Montana**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the City of Laurel through the Public Assistance Grant Program (PA) under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1996-DR are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a new source water intake and modification of the existing source water intake. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an EA is being prepared to assess the potential impacts of each of the proposed alternatives on the human and natural environment. This also provides public notice to invite public comments on the proposed project in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands. In addition, this notice and the draft EA provide information to the public on potential impacts to historic and cultural resources from the proposed undertaking, as outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The proposed source water intake improvements are anticipated to provide long-term reliability for the City of Laurel's public water supply. The existing intake and reliability of supply were severely impacted by the 2011 flood. The construction of a new intake at a more stable location of the river as well as the alterations to the existing intake will mitigate the potential effects of future flooding. The draft EA is available for review between August 6, 2014 and August 29, 2014 at the Laurel City Hall located at 115 W 1st Street. The draft EA is also available for review online from the following websites: laurel.mt.gov and www.greatwesteng.com.

Written comments regarding this environmental action should be received no later than 5 p.m. on August 29, 2014. Submit comments to: Jeremiah Theys, P.E., Great West Engineering, Inc. at P.O. Box 4817, 2501 Belt View Drive, Helena, MT 59604, jtheys@greatwesteng.com or Kurt Markegard, City of Laurel, P.O. Box 10, 115 W 1st Street, Laurel, MT 59044, at kmarkegard@laurel.mt.gov or both; and/or Steven E. Hardegen, DHS/FEMA Region VIII Environmental Officer Denver Federal Center, Bldg 710A, Denver, CO 80225-0267 at Steven.Hardegen@fema.dhs.gov.

If no substantive comments are received by the above deadline, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and be published by FEMA. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

The public may request a copy of the final environmental documents from Kurt Markegard at the City of Laurel or Steven E. Hardegen at the addresses listed above.

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