

Notice of Intent
To prepare an Environmental Assessment for
Rocky Boys Waste Water Lagoon Relocation
Rocky Boys Reservation, Hill County, Montana

Public notification is hereby given by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed project on the Rocky Boys Reservation, Hill County, Montana. The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boys Reservation of north central Montana has requested assistance from FEMA for the proposed installation of a lift station, placement of a 6-inch force main, and relocation of two waste water treatment lagoons.

This notification is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Executive Order 11990 – *Wetland Protection*, and Federal agency implementation procedures including 44 C.F.R. Parts 9 and 10.

FEMA is considering funding the project through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which provides funds to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. In accordance with NEPA, an EA will be prepared to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed project on the human and natural environment. The EA will also address any connected actions that will be carried out as part of the proposed project.

BACKGROUND

The Rocky Boys Indian Reservation consists of 121,957 acres and is located in north central Montana. The embankment supporting the sanitary lagoon system has been saturated by heavy rains. Additionally, Cells 2 and 3 are either unlined or have damaged liners. These problems have resulted in slumping and sliding of the embankment, threatening to destroy the lagoon system and impact the creek below. The purpose of the proposed project is to eliminate the potential for sanitary lagoon failure and protect the creek.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would relocate lagoon cells 2 and 3 to a more stable location approximately 2 miles northwest of the current location. As part of the relocation, a new lift station would need to be installed near the current lagoon location and approximate 12,000 feet of 6-inch force main be installed to carry waste water from Cell 1 to the new location of Cells 2 and 3. The force main would be located primarily in the Agency Road and St. Pierre Road right-of-way.

The proposed project may affect both non-jurisdictional and jurisdictional wetlands. All required federal, tribal, state and local permits and approvals, including a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the regulatory office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be needed prior to construction.

COMMENT PERIOD

A public comment period related to the Proposed Action will remain open for 15 days following publication of this notice. In addition to this initial comment period, a final opportunity for public review and comment will be provided when the Draft EA becomes available. Interested parties may submit comments or request additional project information by contacting:

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