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**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-21-11
June 1, 2021**

Ravalli County Commissioners

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PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Montana Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) intention to issue a General Permit as described in this notice and to hold a public hearing on the issuance of this permit. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department’s website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

PERMIT CATEGORY: **General Permit; Pesticide Applications to or Over State Surface Waters**

GEOGRAPHIC REGION: **Statewide (except within the boundaries of Indian Reservations)**

FACILITIES: **Owners/Operators of Pesticide Applications**

RECEIVING WATER: **Statewide**

PERMIT NUMBER: **MTG870000**

The renewal of this Pesticide General Permit (PGP) will continue to provide statewide general permit coverage for owner/operators for the application of pesticide to or over state surface water, including near (such that the pesticide is unavoidably discharged into the surface water). The PGP is designed to cover pesticide applications in which it is unavoidable that some of the pesticides will be deposited in the water in order to effectively target pests. The renewal is for a five-year cycle.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited **ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS July 1, 2021.** Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Quality Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked **PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS July 1st** will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail DEQ at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

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On July 1st 8:30 AM, a public hearing will be held online on the draft general permit, fact sheet, environmental assessment, and DEQ's tentative determination to reissue the permit. Please contact Hannah New at hannah.new@mt.gov on or before JUNE 24, 2021 for details on how to attend.

The State of Montana makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in state government. Persons needing an accommodation must notify Hannah New no later than **June 24, 2021** to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. You can contact Hannah at hannah.new@mt.gov or write to her at the address noted above to make your request known.

DEQ will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-5546 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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