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JUL 12 2021

Ravalli County Commissioners

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**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-21-16
JULY 12, 2021**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. 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

APPLICANT: **City of Helena**

FACILITY NAME: **Helena Wastewater Treatment Plant**

FACILITY LOCATION: **2108 Custer Ave. East
Helena, MT 59602**

COUNTY: **Lewis and Clark**

RECEIVING WATER: **Effluent Ditch to Prickly Pear Creek**

PERMIT NUMBER: **MT0022641**

DEQ is proposing a draft Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit renewal for the City of Helena Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), serving a current population of about 30,000 people. The WWTP is an activated sludge, modified biological nutrient removal treatment plant with UV disinfection and two-stage anaerobic sludge digestion. Solids are filter pressed and either composted at the landfill (winter) or land applied (summer). Discharge is continuous to the City of Helena ditch, which is constructed solely for the transport of treated effluent to Prickly Pear Creek. The average daily design flow is 5.4 million gallons per day with a minimum detention time of approximately 32 hours. This permit and fact sheet will be submitted to the EPA for approval.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited **ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 11, 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 AUGUST 11, 2021,** 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 the Department at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department 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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