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**APR 04 2018**

March 30, 2018

**Ravalli County Commissioners**

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**Potential Drinking Water SRF Loan Recipients:**

We are contacting communities on the Drinking Water SRF Project Priority List (PPL), as outlined in the SFY2018 Intended Use Plan (IUP). The PPL ranks potential projects that *communities have identified for their respective water systems*. The department is planning to fund three of the lower-ranked projects on the PPL that are ready to proceed at this time. In accordance with the bypass procedures adopted as part of the IUP, all applicants with higher-ranked projects must be notified before the bypass is completed.

The project applicants under consideration for a bypass at this time are the Absorakee Water and Sewer District (WSD), the City of Big Timber, and the City of Ronan. The proposed SRF loan funds for Absorakee WSD will be used to construct distribution system improvements. The proposed SRF loan funds for Big Timber will be used to construct a new water treatment plant. The proposed SRF funds for Ronan will be used to construct water treatment plant improvements.

Since some higher-ranked projects are not ready to proceed, the department is proposing to bypass these higher-ranked projects to fund the projects described above. The funding of these projects by the Drinking Water SRF program should in no way affect funding of your project. All known loan applications currently shown on the PPL can be funded with available funds, even with the bypass for the above projects.

When revising the list by this method, the department's policies require that we contact all affected applicants to solicit comments. We request, by copy of this letter, that any comments regarding the described changes be provided to this office within 15 days of the date of this letter. Changes will go into effect after the comment period if no unresolvable comments have been received.

Thank you and please contact me at (406) 444-5325 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Smith, P.E.  
DWSRF Engineering Mgr.  
Dept. of Environmental Quality