



APPENDIX F

Special Surveys, NEPA Review Process and EA Checklist



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVE:

Y = Yes N = No PA = Possible Adverse

1. Physical Aspects - Topography, Geology and Soils

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Are there physical conditions (e.g., steep slopes, shrink-swells soils, etc.) that might be adversely affected by or might affect construction of the proposed facilities?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Are there similar limiting physical conditions in the planning area that might make development unsuitable?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Are there any unusual or unique geological features that might be affected?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ d. Are there any hazardous areas (slides, faults, etc.) that might affect construction or development?

Discussion and References:

2. Climate

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Are there any unusual or special meteorological constraints in the planning area that might result in an air quality problem?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Are there any unusual or special meteorological constraints in the planning area that might affect the feasibility of the proposed alternative?

Discussion and References:

3. Population

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Are the proposed growth rates excessive (exceeding State projections, greater than 6% per annum for the 20 year planning period)?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Will additional growth be induced or growth in new areas encouraged as a result of facilities construction?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Will the facilities serve areas which are largely undeveloped areas at present?

Discussion and References:

4. Housing, Industrial and Commercial Development and Utilities

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Will existing homes or business be displaced as a result of construction of this property?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Will new housing serviced by this facility affect existing facilities, transportation patterns, environmentally sensitive areas, or be in special hazard or danger zones?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Will new housing create strains on other utilities and services - policies, power, wastewater treatment facility, schools, hospital care, etc.?

Discussion and References:

5. Economics and Social Profile

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Will certain landowners benefit substantially from the development of land due to distribution line routing or DWTP location and size?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Will the facilities adversely affect land values?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Are any poor or disadvantaged groups especially affected by this project?

Discussion and References:

6. Land Use

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Will projected growth defeat the purpose of local land use controls (if any)?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Is the location of the DWTP or other facilities incompatible with local land use plans?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Will inhabited areas be adversely impacted by the project site?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ d. Will new development have adverse effects on older existing land uses (agriculture, forest land, etc.)?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ e. Will this project contribute to changes in land use in association with recreation (skiing, parks, etc.), mining or other large industrial or energy developments?

Discussion and References:

7. Floodplain Development

- Y x N ___ PA ___ a. Does the planning area contain 100 year flood plains?
If yes -
- Y x N ___ PA ___ b. Will the project be constructed in a 100 year floodplain?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Will the project serve direct or indirect development in a 100 year floodplain anywhere in the planning area?

Discussion and References:

Portions of the existing plant site are within a FEMA designated 100-year floodplain, however the plant's treatment facility will be above the 100-year floodplain. An existing access road crosses the 100-year floodplain and the District will be required by the local floodplain jurisdiction to improve the road. Regulatory approval is being sought with a consultant hired to evaluate the conditions, identify improvements (if needed) and submit the appropriate application for approval.

8. Wetlands

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Does the planning area contain wetlands as defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
If yes -
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Will any major part of the project be located on wetlands?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Will the project serve growth and development which will directly or indirectly affect wetlands?

Discussion and References:

9. Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Does the planning area contain a designated or proposed wild and scenic river?
If yes -
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Will the project be constructed near the river?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Will projected growth and development take place contiguous to or upstream from the river segment?
- Y x N ___ PA ___ d. Will the river segment be used for disposal of effluent?

Discussion and References: Discharge of the WWTP effluent will be to Boxelder Creek approximately 100 yards upstream of the Boxelder Creek and Poudre River confluence.

10. Cultural Resources (Archeological/Historical)

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Are there any properties (historic, architectural, archeological) in the planning area which are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?
If yes -
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Will the project have direct or indirect adverse impacts on any listed or eligible property?

Discussion and References:

11. Flora and Fauna (including endangered species)

- Y x N ___ PA ___ a. Are there any designated threatened or endangered species or their habitat in the planning area?
- Y ___ N see discussion below PA ___

- b. Will the project have direct or indirect adverse impacts on any such designated species?

Y ___ N ___ see discussion below PA ___

- c. Will the project have direct or indirect adverse impacts on fish, wildlife or their habitat including migratory routes, wintering or calving areas?

Y ___ N ___ x ___ PA ___ d. Does the planning area include a sensitive habitat area designed by a local, State or Federal wildlife agency?

Discussion and References

- a. A bald eagle nest exists approximately 100 yards to the west of the existing WWTP. The District met with Mr. Mark Leslie of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) on 08 April 2010. Mr. Leslie observed the eagle nest and plant operations, including additional large equipment in place conducting biosolids removal, with the eagle pair seemingly unaffected by the operations occurring. At least one eaglet hatched and has been observed by plant staff as of 10 May 2010. This nest has existed for several years, though this is the first in at least 5 years that a pair of eagles has actively nested and produced chicks (plant staff observations).

Mr. Leslie has contacted Mr. Pete Plage with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and informed him of the situation. The District is currently contacting Mr. Plage to determine steps to be taken for approval of the WWTP construction.

- b. A blue heron nesting tree existing approximately 50 yards from the existing WWTP. During the 08 April 2010 visit by Mark Leslie with CDOW, he observed the nesting tree but also noted no blue herons were using the nests at that time. As with the eagles (see above) Mr. Leslie has followed up with the USFWS and the District will be discussing the blue heron nesting area with the USFWS to determine steps to be taken for approval of the WWTP construction.

12. Recreation and Open Space

Y ___ N ___ x ___ PA ___ a. Will the project eliminate or modify recreational open space, parks or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value?

Y ___ N ___ x ___ PA ___ b. Is it feasible to combine the project with parks, bicycle paths, hiking trails, waterway access and other recreational uses?

Discussion and References:

13. Agricultural Lands

Y ___ N ___ x ___ PA ___ a. Does the planning area contain any environmentally significant agricultural lands (prime, unique, statewide importance, local importance, etc.) as defined in the EPA Policy to Protect Environmentally Significant Agricultural Lands dated September 8, 1978?

Y ___ N ___ x ___ PA ___ b. Will the project directly or indirectly encourage the irreversible conversion of Environmentally Significant Agricultural Lands to

uses which result in the loss of these lands as an environmental or essential food production resource?

Discussion and References:

14. Air Quality

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Are there any direct air emissions from the project (e.g., odor controls, sludge incinerator) which do not meet Federal and State emission standards contained in the State Air Quality Implementation Plan (SIP)?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Is the project service area located in an area without an approved or conditionally approved SIP?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Is the increased capacity of the project greater than 1 mgd?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ d. Do the population projections used in the facilities plan exceed the State or area wide projections in the SIP by more than 5%?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ e. Does the project conform with the requirements of the SIP? (See EPA regulations under Section 316 of the Clean Air Act.)
- Y ___ N x PA ___ f. Is the project inconsistent with the SIP of an adjoining State that may be impacted by the Project?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ g. Does the project violate national ambient Air Quality Standards in an attainment or unclassified area?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ h. Will the facility create an odor nuisance problem?

Discussion and References:

15. Water Quality and Quantity (Surface/Groundwater)

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Are present stream classifications in the receiving stream being challenged as too low to protect present or recent uses?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Is there a substantial risk that the proposed discharge will not meet existing stream standards or will not be of sufficient quality to protect present or recent stream uses?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Will construction of the project or development to be served by the project result in non-point water quality problems (sedimentation, urban stormwater, etc.)?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ d. Will water rights be adversely affected by the project?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ e. Will the project cause a significant amount of water to be transferred from one sub-basin to another (relative to the 7-day, 10 year flow of the diverted basin)?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ f. Will stream habitat be affected as a result of the change in flow or stream bank modification?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ g. Are stream conditions needed for deciding upon the required limitations inadequately specified in the 208 Plan? If so, have the wasteload allocation calculations been performed and approved by the State and EPA?
- Y x N ___ PA ___ h. Is an Antidegradation Review required?

- Y ___ N x PA ___ I. Will the project adversely affect the quantity or quality of a groundwater resource?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ j. Are there additional cost effective water conservation measures that could be adopted by community to reduce sewage generation?

Discussion and References:

h. An Antidegradation Review will be required as part of the Preliminary Effluent Limit (PEL) determination. The District applied for its PELs for the new plant in late February 2010 but has yet to receive the PELs from CDPHE.

16. Public Health

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Will there be adverse direct or indirect noise impacts from the project?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Will there be a vector problem (e.g., mosquito) from the project?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Will there be any unique public health problems as a result of the project (e.g., increased disease risks)?

Discussion and References:

17. Solid Waste (Sludge Management)

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Will sludge disposal occur in an area with inadequate sanitary landfills or on land unsuitable for land application?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Are there special problems with the sludge that makes disposal difficult (hazardous, difficult to treat)?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Is the technology selected for sludge disposal controversial?

Discussion and References:

18. Energy

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Are there additional cost effective measures to reduce energy consumption or increase energy recovery which could be included in this project?

Discussion and References:

The District will be working with its consultant to identify energy efficient pumps and electrical equipment to minimized energy consumption.

19. Land Application

- Y ___ N x PA ___ a. Has a new or unproven technique been selected?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ b. Is there considerable public controversy about the project?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Will the project require additional water rights or impact existing water rights?
- Y ___ N x PA ___ c. Is the project multi-purpose?

Discussion and References:

20. Regionalization

