DECISION NOTICE

CONDUCT SAMPLING AT BIG SPRINGS FISH HATCHERY – BURIED AQUARIUM

Prepared by
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
July 22, 2009

I. Proposal

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to collect samples for analysis of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) from a buried aquarium and surrounding soils to characterize the level of contamination of these materials and thus determine the proper disposal site for these contaminated materials.

II. Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

FWP presented the proposal in an Environmental Assessment (EA) released by FWP on June 29, 2009. The 21-day comment period for this EA ended July 19, 2009. An open house was held on July 15 at the project site at the upper unit of Big Springs Trout Hatchery to explain the project to the public and to address any of their concerns. Six members of the public attended the open house.

Issues raised during the public comment period for this EA are addressed in the Comments section of this Decision Notice. The draft EA and Decision Notice will serve as the final document.

III. Summary of Public Comment

One written comment, from the Montana Historical Society (MHS), was received in response to the draft EA. No other comments were received. MHS stated that there was a low likelihood that cultural properties would be impacted by the project.

IV. Modifications to the Environmental Assessment

Modifications to the draft EA are deemed to be unnecessary.

V. Decision

After review of the proposal, it is my decision to proceed with the PCB sampling related to the buried aquarium at Big Springs Trout Hatchery.

I find there to be no significant impacts associated with this action and conclude that an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed. The completed EA and the Decision Notice provide an adequate level of analysis.

Bob Snyder, Hatchery Section Supervisor
Fisheries Division