

BEFORE THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

In the matter of the amendment of ARM)	NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF
17.30.617 and 17.30.638 pertaining to)	COMMENT PERIOD ON
outstanding resource water designation)	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
for the Gallatin River)	
)	(WATER QUALITY)

TO: All Concerned Persons

1. On October 5, 2006, the Board of Environmental Review published MAR Notice No. 17-254 regarding a notice of public hearing on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 2294, 2006 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 19. On March 22, 2007, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-257 regarding a notice of extension of comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 328, 2007 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 6. On September 20, 2007, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-263 regarding a notice of extension of comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 1398, 2007 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 18. On March 13, 2008, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-268 extending the comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 438, 2008 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 5. On September 11, 2008, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-276 extending the comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 1953, 2008 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 17. On February 26, 2009, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-276 extending the comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 162, 2009 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 4. On August 13, 2009, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-276 extending the comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 1324, 2009 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 15. On February 11, 2010, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-276 extending the comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 264, 2010 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 3. On July 29, 2010, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-276 extending the comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 1648, 2010 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 14. On January 27, 2011, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-276 extending the comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 89, 2011 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 2. On July 14, 2011, the board published MAR Notice No. 17-276 extending the comment period on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 1244, 2011 Montana Administrative Register, issue number 13.

2. During the initial comment period and extensions of the original comment period, the board was advised that members of the Big Sky community, which would be affected by this rulemaking, had formed a collaborative, called the "Wastewater Solutions Forum," and had hired an engineering firm, which completed a feasibility

study on extending the coverage of the Big Sky Water and Sewer district service area. The board received comments indicating that this would protect water quality in the Gallatin River as well as or better than adoption of the proposed rule. The Forum was exploring funding options when the economic downturn began. That downturn resulted in an interruption of those efforts. However, those efforts have now resumed. During the comment period, the board received comments indicating that the Forum has funding for and is conducting a pilot test to determine the feasibility of disposing of wastewater from the Big Sky and Yellowstone Mountain Club wastewater treatment facilities using snow making at a confined site at the Yellowstone Mountain Club. If successful, this will provide a method for disposal of wastewater without affecting the Gallatin River, which may allow for expansion of the sewer system and protection of the Gallatin. During the most recent comment period, the board received a comment requesting that the board further extend the comment period. The board has determined that it will further extend the comment period in order to allow submission of comments and information on the feasibility of this option.

3. Written data, views, or arguments may be submitted to Elois Johnson, Paralegal, Department of Environmental Quality, 1520 E. Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana, 59620-0901; faxed to (406) 444-4386; or e-mailed to ejohnson@mt.gov, no later than April 24, 2012. To be guaranteed consideration, mailed comments must be postmarked on or before that date.

4. The board will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking action or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. If you require an accommodation, contact the board no later than 5:00 p.m., January 30, 2012, to advise us of the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact the board secretary at P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901; phone (406) 444-2544; fax (406) 444-4386; or e-mail ber@mt.gov.

Reviewed by:

BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

/s/ John F. North
JOHN F. NORTH
Rule Reviewer

BY: /s/ Joseph W. Russell
JOSEPH W. RUSSELL, M.P.H.
Chairman

Certified to the Secretary of State, January 3, 2012.