

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

WATERSHED-BASED WYPDES PERMITTING

for the

POWDER RIVER BASIN, WYOMING

Annual Report

for

U.S. EPA Environmental Policy and Innovation Grant

PI978078-01

Prepared by:

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Water Quality Division

Cheyenne, WY 82002

December 30, 2005

Environmental Policy and Innovation Grant

Watershed-based WYPDES Permitting for the Powder River Basin, Wyoming

INTRODUCTION

The Water Quality Division (WQD) of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) received a Grant Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Office of Environmental Policy and Innovation, for a grant covering the time period June 17, 2005 to June 30, 2008 to develop and implement a watershed-based WYPDES permitting process for the Powder River Basin (PRB) in northeastern Wyoming. This progress report presents a summary of project related activity from October 01, 2005 to December 31, 2005.

PROJECT ACTIVITY

- 1)
 - a - WQD sponsored the initial stakeholder committee meetings for the Clear Creek and Fence Creek watersheds on August 3 and 4th, 2005, respectively.
 - b - WQD is preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for LIDAR data collection (for incorporation into Arc Hydro) and an RFP for integrating the Arc Hydro GIS platform with the Visual MINTEQ geochemical water quality model.
 - c - WQD has contacted the University of North Dakota Energy and Environmental Research Center (UNDEERC) and the University of Wyoming, Department of Renewable Resources, for costs, potential consultants, and procedures related to LIDAR data collection efforts.
 - d - WQD has attempted to contact the creator of the Visual MINTEQ geochemical model (shareware software), Jon Petter Gustafsson, at KTH, Department of Land and Water Resources Engineering, Stockholm, Sweden, to discuss integration of Arc Hydro and Visual MINTEQ. WQD is prepared to move forward, with programming and programmers, with the integration.
- 2)
 - a - WQD has “kicked-off” the second set of watershed-based WYPDES permitting stakeholder committees. The progress of the committee meetings, and updates on future meetings, can be found on the WDEQ website:

http://deq.state.wy.us/wqd/CBM_watershed_permitting.asp

Draft General Permits and Plans from the initial set of watersheds (Pumpkin, Fourmile, and Willow Creeks) can be found on the WEQD website at:

http://deq.state.wy.us/wqd/wypdes_cbm_wsperm_PumpkinCk.asp

- 3) The project is on schedule.
- 4) No funds from the Grant have been spent to date.
- 5) *Financial information removed by EPA as confidential business information.*

NEXT STEPS

WQD has another set of stakeholder committee meetings planned for January 2006.

WQD plans to Public Notice the Pumpkin Creek Watershed General Permit, the Fourmile Creek Watershed Plan, and the Willow Creek Watershed General Permit in January-February 2006 for a 45 day public comment period.

WQD has commenced data collection efforts for the Clear and Fence Creek watersheds.

WQD has delayed plans to release RFPs for LIDAR and modeling integration until January 2006. WQD is continuing to collect information on existing LIDAR coverages to reduce the cost and scope of the RFP for LIDAR data collection.