

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

WATERSHED-BASED WYPDES PERMITTING

for the

POWDER RIVER BASIN, WYOMING

Progress Report

for

U.S. EPA Environmental Policy and Innovation Grant

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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 date of grant award to September 30, 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, respectively. See Appendix A for the meeting agenda.
 - 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 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 November 2005.

WQD plans to have RFPs released for LIDAR and modeling integration by the end of October 2005, and to move forward with data collection efforts for the Clear and Fence Creek watersheds.

Appendix A

Clear and Fence Creek Watershed-based Permitting Stakeholder Committees:
Meeting 1 - Agenda

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Watershed Based Permitting Committees Draft Agenda and Meeting Goals Meeting #1	
Clear Creek Committee August 3, 2005 The Bozeman 675 E. Hart Street, Buffalo 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Fence Creek Committee August 4, 2005 The Bozeman 675 E. Hart Street, Buffalo 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Goals

- ◆ Provide an overview of WY DEQ’s initiative
- ◆ Present and clarify the Committee’s Charter
- ◆ Identify the key issues for the watershed
- ◆ Identify the key interests of Committee members
- ◆ Develop and assess the list of collective issues and interests
- ◆ Present background information on the watershed
- ◆ Develop the Committee’s Operating Guidelines

Agenda

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

- ◆ Welcome (John Corra or Todd Parfitt, DEQ)
- ◆ Introduction of facilitators
- ◆ Introduction of Committee members
 - What is your history with Clear/Fence Creek?
 - What are your hopes for this committee?
- ◆ Review and approval of meeting agenda

8:30 – 9:15 a.m. Overview of the Initiative

- ◆ Background on permitting initiative (Todd Parfitt, DEQ)
- ◆ Goals and objectives (Todd Parfitt, DEQ)
- ◆ Questions from the Committee

9:15 – 10:00 a.m. Committee Charter

- ◆ Mandate and scope of the Committee (Todd Parfitt, DEQ)
- ◆ Role and responsibilities of DEQ, including individual DEQ representatives (Todd Parfitt and DEQ Staff)
- ◆ Role of the Committee and individual Committee members (Todd Parfitt, DEQ)

- ◆ Questions from the Committee

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Overview of the Clear/Fence Creek Watershed

- ◆ Background information (DEQ) (Kathy Shreve and Dan Hengle, DEQ for Clear Creek) (Jennifer Zygmunt and Dan Hengle, DEQ for Fence Creek)
- ◆ Questions from the Committee

11:00 – 11:45 a.m. Committee Identification of Issues in the Clear/Fence Creek Watershed

- ◆ Committee identification of issues
What issues need to be discussed and understood further?
- ◆ Other available information (Todd Parfitt, DEQ)
- ◆ Questions for the Committee
Of the information that is available, what will be useful in addressing the issues identified by the Committee?
Do we need a channel capacity study?

11:45 a.m. – Noon Public Comment

Noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 – 3:15 p.m. Key Interests and Concerns of the Committee

- ◆ Identification of Committee members' interests and concerns
What specific concerns do you have about the issues identified by the Committee?
What would you like to see happen?
What would you like to avoid?
- ◆ Compilation of interests and concerns for each issue
- ◆ Committee assessment of list
Does this list include the key interests and concerns of stakeholders in the watershed?
Are any missing?

3:15 - 3:30 p.m. Break

3:30-4:15 p.m. Committee Operating Guidelines

- ◆ Proposal for Operating Guidelines
- ◆ Committee discussion and input into draft

4:15 – 4:30 p.m. Public Comment

4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Next Steps and Meeting Evaluation

- ◆ Review meeting agreements
- ◆ Identify next steps, including next meeting date
- ◆ Meeting evaluation