



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

City of Harlowton
WPCSRF #: C304270

Harlowton Collection System Improvements

September 2, 2026

The City of Harlowton has identified eight locations in the sewer system where existing clay pipe segments are deteriorating, resulting in infiltration, increased root intrusion, and heightened risk of sewer back-ups. Along with new sewer pipes, the City proposes to install new or modified manholes to support long term operation and maintenance of the collection system. The eight locations are spread throughout the community, with four north of 2nd Street NW (Highway 12) and four to the south. Pipe replacement lengths range from approximately 132 feet on B Ave NE to approximately 533 feet along 4th St NW and View St NW.

To solve the deterioration problem, approximately 2,420 feet of sewer main would be replaced using open-cut construction. In these same locations, 19 new manholes would be installed and/or 31 existing manholes would be modified to provide long-term access for operation and maintenance.

Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the Department has concluded that the proposed project meets the Categorical Exclusion criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Categorical Exclusion may be revoked if the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the preliminary engineer report, a new or modified application is submitted, new evidence demonstrates serious local or environmental issues exist, or state, local, tribal, or federal laws are violated.

The documentation for the Categorical Exclusion along with a map showing the proposed eight construction locations is available for public review at the following locations and online at <https://deq.mt.gov/public/publicnotice>:

Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
2401 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601
rridenour@mt.gov

City of Harlowton
17 S Central Ave.
Harlowton, MT 59036



September 2, 2026

Mayor Jack Runner
City of Harlowton
17 S. Central Avenue
PO Box 292
Harlowton, MT 59036

Re: City of Harlowton Collections – 2026 Categorical Exclusion, WPCSRF #C304270

Dear Mayor Runner:

An environmental review of the above referenced project has been completed by the Water Pollution Control SRF Program. Based on this review, DEQ has determined that the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion from further environmental review. A copy of the Notice of Publication of Categorical Exclusion for this project is enclosed. Please print the notice in at least one publication of your local newspaper, under legal advertising, and return a copy of the proof of advertisement to this office. Please have the Notice, Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), the May 2026 Harlowton Wastewater Improvements Engineering Report and the project contract documents available for public review at your office.

If you have any questions regarding this process or the project in general, contact me at rridenour@mt.gov or (406) 444-5322.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Ridenour".

Rebecca Ridenour, PE
Environmental Engineer
Engineering Bureaus
Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund (SRF)

Encl: Notice of Publication of Categorical Exclusion – Harlowton Collections – 2026
Map showing proposed construction locations

Cc (email with enclosures): Chris Hayes, PE, Robert Peccia & Associates
Anita Leach, Clerk/Treasurer, City of Harlowton

