

June 2, 2022

Delivery Via Email

Re: Spirit Lake Bonner County WWTP Proposal (Hwy 41 & Spirit Lake Cutoff Road).

City of Spirit Lake Townsite Act Conveyance

This letter will be addressed to the following Person (S); Kerry Arneson NEPA/ Michelle Caviness USDA

I would like to address the fact that Bonner County has no local Representation for its Residents here in North Spirit Lake/Bonner County area, and therefore, everything needs to come to a halt until we do. People are just finding out about this and want their voices heard. We have many questions and we need honest comprehensive answers. This is not a suitable fix for the City of Spirit Lake as it intrudes and destroys the everything we have worked our whole lives to build.

My number one concern, that I would like for all involved is the lack of public DISCLOSURE. What was the reasoning in hiding Disclosure? I never received anything in the mail about this project, it was not anywhere but in a remote Kootenai County Newspaper somewhere hidden on an obscure area that no one would notice and to the benefit of its composer. Clearly that worked out to the benefit of the Developer's and others with so little of people knowing about it. This is a Publication that is not in Bonner County.

In late December, my neighbor informed me of this project and that we had only a few days to respond to something so huge and would adversely affect our lives, our property values and health. There was almost no time to get a response in. This was a very Sneaky Backdoor way of gliding this agenda' right through without complete and full disclosure to the People of both Counties within Spirit Lake and especially to Bonner County Residents and Business Owners.

I have not heard back from anyone until May 9th 2022. Almost Five months later and this time, it was via U.S. Mail, However, it seems it was only mailed to the initial Eleven Respondents as it was mentioned that nobody would learn of this Sewer Project until it was to late. Although I am sure their plans far exceed WWTP until deal was complete. Then it is anything goes without Public Comment. They could do anything, perhaps a Power Plant as word is the Developers are seeking the Blanchard area for Development as well.

Post Falls has Their WWTP on 40 acres, with a much larger population of at Nine Thousand People and business far more than all of Spirit Lake and that would include what is developable,

The 2020 Census reported a total of 2,490 Residents for all of Spirit Lake. In just over two years, it has grown, but not enough to justify your project needing 158.74 acres. With Growth being -

front and center and in the minds of the Developers and others with that comes Money. Big Money. At who's expense? The very people that live in this proposed project area. I live across the road and the wind blows from site right through my property and sometimes strong winds.

This NFL (National Forest Land) belongs to the people and has been enjoyed for decades (with no alternatives) for activities enjoyed such as, Dog Walking, Horse Back Riding, Off Road Trails, Pic Niks, Walks, etc. Taking this away would severely impact everyone. We can also grow this area to accommodate more activities for the Children's needs to enjoy nature and space. This is a well established recreational area. This would be cruel to take away. There are no more area's anywhere close and this means people will have to travel to get access to National Forest Land.

ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED – QUESTIONS

- 1) We need a New Comprehensive Environmental Report (from and Independent Source)?
- 2) Comprehensive Plan/s and design of WWTP and leftover land use intentions?
- 3) Sound output? Noise that disrupts sleep (especially those of us very close to proposal).
- 4) Lighting and light emanating from site that would interrupt our Dark Beautiful Sky's
- 5) Verify that no other Use other than WWTP, such as Power Plants or other ventures.?
- 6) Who is paying for this and at what cost in total? (not answered in previous letter)
- 7) How many homes and Business' will this supply service to and where are they located?
- 8) Records of existing Air Samples from current site? Civil Engineering and what Labs used for testing?
- 9) Bio Solids? Process? Effect?
- 10) What happens to existing site/property? If Trees down and wind effects and health much worse.? Who pays medical bills??
- 11) Can you take 40 acres at Hwy 41 and leave the rest for the People's Recreation Area?

- 12) If yes to 11, When can both Counties Reps meet with the people of both Counties?
- 13) Can you install Septic Tanks instead? (If zoning regulated Why?)
- 14) Why do you need almost 160 Acres? (of our last Forest Lands?)
- 15) Why destroy all the Tree's? (Eyesore on steroids) Decline in Property value massively.
- 16) **Lighting and Noise.** This area is extremely quiet and we have the right to "Dark Skies". It is a very quiet area and we cannot surrender all we have for the Developers. How can you keep it this way for us?

Putting the Human Waste in our back yards is deplorable and a serious health risk. I again implore you to provide an *extensive Environmental Impact Report from an Independent Company*.

Clearly Noise and Lights are of great concern as we live in the Northern Spirit Lake area by choice for Dark skies and enjoy the Peace and Quiet that are nearing extinction.

Since we need another Comprehensive Impact Report, many of us are very worried about our well water and the potential dangers overall of this project and lack of its intentions for use on the remaining acreage. The existing site is far away from any homes and there seems to be other options and lots of room there.

I think a Public Meeting would be the most appropriate and the Realtor Ms. Turecek agreed with me back in December via email. Nothing to date has been scheduled with all whom this will impact.

This small rural town is not prepared and should not prepare for massive growth as the infrastructure would take years to complete. We have only two lanes on Highway 41 and it has seen a big increase in car accidents. We need to be careful and thoughtful because once this is done, you can't undo it.

This is a very special place. It took my whole life to get here. The People must be included in this potential life changing development. This will have a huge negative impact on human lives and wildlife. I can't imagine in this extremely rare place that anyone would cut and clear all the trees. That is insane not only in terms of visual impact, but also property value decline, health. We all should have the ability to be involved and even help with the decisions as it directly and adversely impacts our lives and the wildlife inhabitants.

Due to the fact that the property values would plummet from this proposal, even if people decided to sell their Homes/Ranches and real property, they would still have to disclose this project, making it impossible to sell and/or well below market value and therefore, leaving homeowners in quite a negative disposition in terms of their Real Estate values and limiting the amount of their profits and lively hoods.

With a portion of my property that backs to IDL land which is elevated and rare, with 360 degree views of the mountains and trees below, (if the trees come down and site put in), this would render this part of my property worthless.

I strongly Oppose this Project and seek Remedies for a new Site Location where people are not negatively impacted.

The People should have the right to Legal Counsel, if this is to move forward. Disclosure was absent from Bonner County Residents.

Thank you in advance for addressing these concerns.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hughes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]