

**From:** Stillwater County  
**To:** [Stillwater County](#)  
**Subject:** ROCKSLIDE UPDATE  
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## Rockslide Update:

On March 23, 2017, DES State Hazard Mitigation Officer Nadene Wadsworth was in Columbus to discuss progress on the FEMA grant for the rockslide project. The FEMA grant is a "Pre-Disaster Mitigation" grant or PDM grant. Stillwater County began the application process for this grant in May 2016. Please recall Stillwater County also applied for this type of FEMA grant in 2015 but the application was denied so the County had to re-apply again in 2016.

As with most grant requests, it is a time consuming process. Stillwater County's rockslide project was one of ten grant applications received from various entities in Montana in 2016 and fortunately, Stillwater's project was identified as one which FEMA wanted to further review. The grant applied for is \$1.86 million dollars.

At this time, FEMA is conducting a final environmental review of the proposed project. According to Officer Wadsworth, this review is progressing well because the grant application contained a great deal of environmental information. The only minor set-back has been with the area the County identified as the dump site for the rocks from the project. The original site was to be at the Moraine Fishing Access, however, FEMA determined the site has tipi rings, and is a protected area. Once the County was given that information, the County worked with Stillwater Mine to locate an alternative site for the rocks. The County has now proposed an area near the Mine's Hertzler Tailings Pond and is awaiting FEMA approval.

The County stands ready to begin the project, however, the County cannot begin actual rock-moving work until the PDM grant has been officially awarded. Crews were slated to begin rock removal this week, however, if crews were to begin now, the grant award of \$1.86 million could potentially face denial. The projected costs of the rock project is at \$2.48 million so the grant award is a crucial component.

The County Commissioners and Mark Schreiner expressed concerns about this delay to Officer Wadsworth. She fully understands that all of you have been waiting for a resolution for a long time and assures the Commissioners, they are working as quickly as possible on their end to get this process finalized. The County remains hopeful FEMA will provide us an answer within the next few weeks so work can begin.

Thank you.

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