



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Idaho Division**

February 13, 2014

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In Reply Refer To:  
HFO-ID

Brian W. Ness, Director  
Idaho Transportation Department  
P.O. Box 7129  
Boise, ID 83707

Attention: Sue Sullivan, ITD HQ Environmental

RE: NEPA Process Class of Action for the Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive Temporary Overweight  
Truck Route

Dear Mr. Ness:

As discussed with your staff, we reviewed the Environmental Evaluation for the Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive Temporary Overweight Truck Route that was submitted on February 5, 2014, and the public comments received to date. We have determined that a Categorical Exclusion is not the appropriate NEPA class of action needed for this project.

Due to the substantial controversy on environmental grounds surrounding this project, we recommend that the NEPA process proceed with the development of an environmental assessment (EA). Preparation of an EA would not require starting again from scratch; efforts and documentation prepared up to this point would be able to be utilized in the development and preparation of the EA. The EA should evaluate the context and intensity of project effects and establish whether the project will result in any significant impacts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 208-334-9180 extension 127.

Sincerely,

*(original signed by)*

Kyle P. Holman  
Operations Engineer

cc: FHWA: Peter Hartman, Gus Shanine, Brent Inghram, John Perry  
ITD: Damon Allen, Jason Minzghor, Michael Hartz