

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING DIVISION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

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STATE OF MONTANA

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0103

November 16, 2007

Attn: School Administrators & Facility Managers

Re: Montana State K-12 Facility Assessment
Assessment Update Information

The 2005 Special Legislative Session appropriated funding for a statewide K-12 school facility assessment. Phase I, completed in FY 2007, collected data for location and school facilities in Montana. Phase II, to begin in December, will be on-site assessment of all K-12 school facilities and their associated support structures in Montana.

The State of Montana has contracted with DLR Group, a national architectural, engineering, and planning firm, to facilitate this Phase II assessment. They will be joined by various local architecture and engineering firms to conduct inspections at each school site. These assessments will occur from mid-January through mid-April, with a sampling of on-site visits conducted in December as a pre-test of the system.

The purpose of the Phase II assessment is not to identify improper use / abuse of facilities, nor will the inspectors make commitments for improvements to these buildings. The purpose of the assessment is to conduct an interview with key maintenance staff and an observable systems review of each building, compared to a standardized inspection protocol that will enable all facilities to be assessed in a consistent manner. A final report of the Phase II assessment results will be shared with the state legislature by June 30, 2008, and copies will be available to all school districts.

Follow up correspondence will be sent within the next few weeks identifying the date(s) that a consultant team will be visiting your facilities, so that they may gain access and have an opportunity to speak with your maintenance staff. Closer to the actual visitation, the consultants will phone your offices to solidify a time and location.

If you have any concerns or questions about this process, you may contact the project manager at the following:

Scott Rose, DLR Group Architecture & Planning
Phone: 503-274-2675
FAX: 503-274-0313
E-mail: srose@dlrgroup.com

Thank you for your assistance in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Triem".

Joe Triem, Planning Manager
Architecture & Engineering Division

cc: Darrell Rud, School Administrators of Montana
Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association
Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association
Claudette Morton, Montana Small School Alliance
Erik Burke, Public Policy Director, MEA-MFT