EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1/16/07
HB 6,8

January 16, 2007
Montana Legislature
Joint Long-Range Planning Subcommittee
Hearing for HB11
DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and TSEP Project Funding

Justification for Providing Funding to the Town of Brady for Upgrading and Repairing the Wastewater Lagoon and Collection System

Members of the Joint Long-Range Planning Subcommitte my name is Gladys Thaut. I am chairperson Brady County Water and Sewer District.

The Brady wastewater lagoon and collection system was originally built in 1955 as a 1 cell lagoon and collection system. Two more cells were added to the lagoon system in the 1970's. Only minor repairs have been made to the lagoon and collection systems between 1955 and 1970 and since the two cells were added, resulting in a culmination of needed significant repairs and replacements to both the lagoon and collection systems, for which the town of Brady only has a reserve of $5,000 cash.

Our district took ownership of the wastewater lagoon and collection system in 2004, which had previously been under operation and management as a RSID through Pondera County.

In the two years that the Brady County Water and Sewer District has been responsible for the lagoon and collection system we have been issued an administrative order from DEQ requiring that we move forward with repairs to prevent further violations and fines. It is evident from a prelimary engineering report that the lagoon system no longer meets discharge permit requirements and design standards. Much of this is due to the fact that our system is more than 50 years old. The standards for construction were much different at the time. With age and the continuing development of environmental standards our existing sewer system is not acceptable today.

The PER also estimates that 50% of the collection system has any one or more of the following: broken clay pipe, root intrusion, offset joints, sags between manholes, and very poor service connections. Plugs have caused sewage to back up into the main and flood basements.

The estimated price tag to make all repairs and replacements is $3 million. We have been turned down this year for money from CDBG and TSEP and have received only a preliminary commitment from Rural Development for partial funding. Depending on the exact funding from Rural Development and the $100,000 from the DNRC program we plan we to proceed with the treatment improvements at the lagoon itself. This would include:

1) Permanently repairing the lagoon discharge structure so that untreated wastewater is no longer leaving the lagoon. The PER estimated cost for this is $66,500.00.

2) Replacing and upgrading piping and valving within the lagoon for which the PER cost estimate is $40,658.00.

3) Removing and properly disposing of sludge from all 3 lagoon cells for which the PER cost estimate is $168,000.00.

Without the $100,000 DNRC renewable resource grant money Brady cannot do much more than continue to operate the lagoon system as it has and can save up no money to be able to make repairs to the collection system. More importantly Brady can do little to reduce the health and safety issues it faces related to a leaking lagoon, leaking discharge structure, short-circuiting in the lagoon, sludge accumulation, collection system plugging and collection system leaking.

Our score for TSEP monies was below the funding cutoff point. We believe our project is every bit as worthy as those proposed to receive funding and feel that the differences in scoring are insignificant. If you cannot fund our full TSEP request we would urge you to strongly consider funding part of our TSEP request along with awarding Brady the DNRC Renewable Resource Grant funds.

Thus, we plead with the legislature to provide us with the DNRC and TSEP funding that we so desperately need to continue to exist as a community.

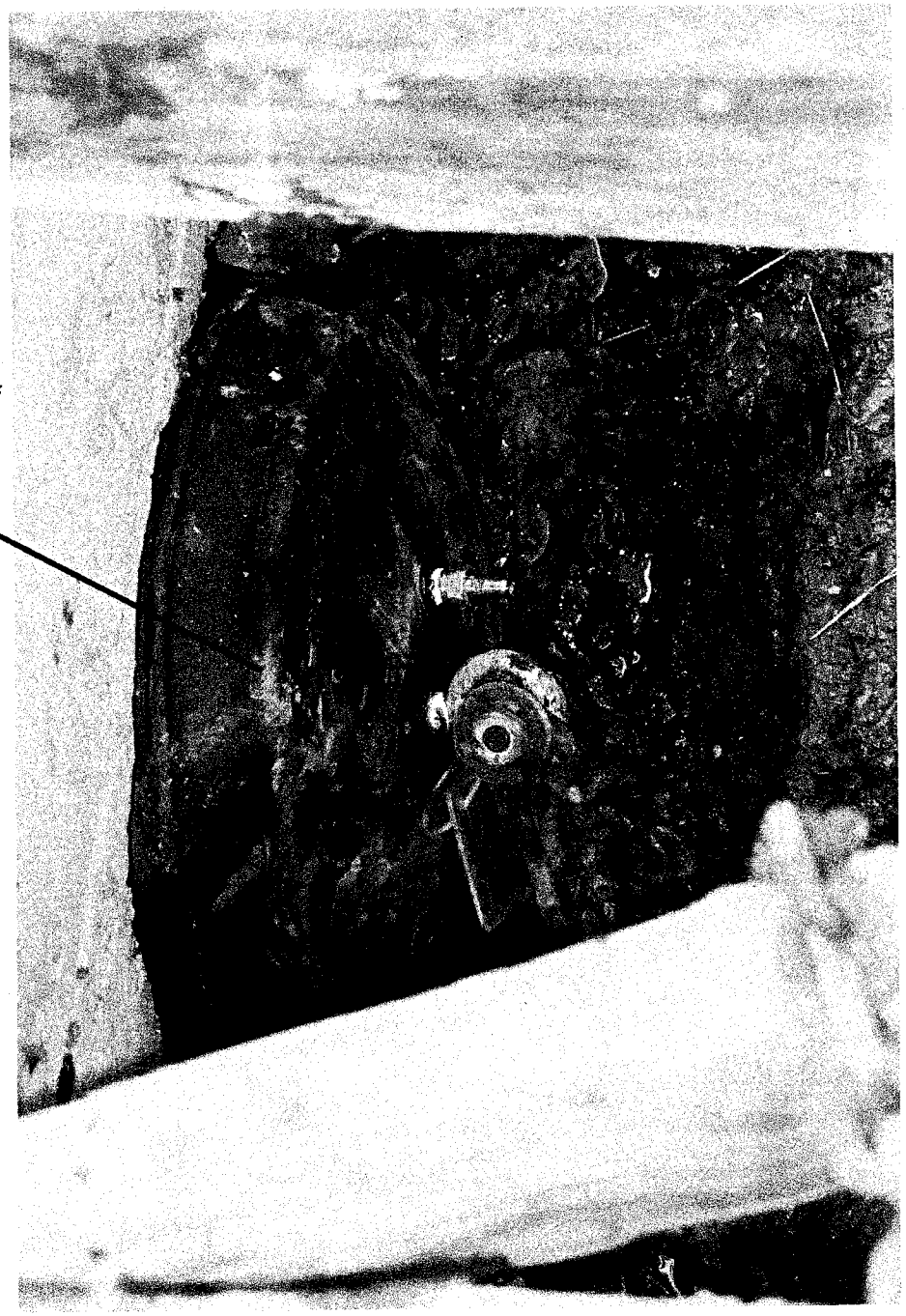
Brady Lagoon - Leakage Prevention from Cell #1 - 11/2/06

Lagoon side of boards water about 3" from top of bottom board. So, has 19" before water would go over boards. Flow beginning to transfer from cell #1 to cell #2.

Brady Lagoon - Leakage Prevention from Cell #1 - 11/16/06

Pipe plug placed in discharge pipe 11/16/06 to ensure no discharge if boards begin leaking.

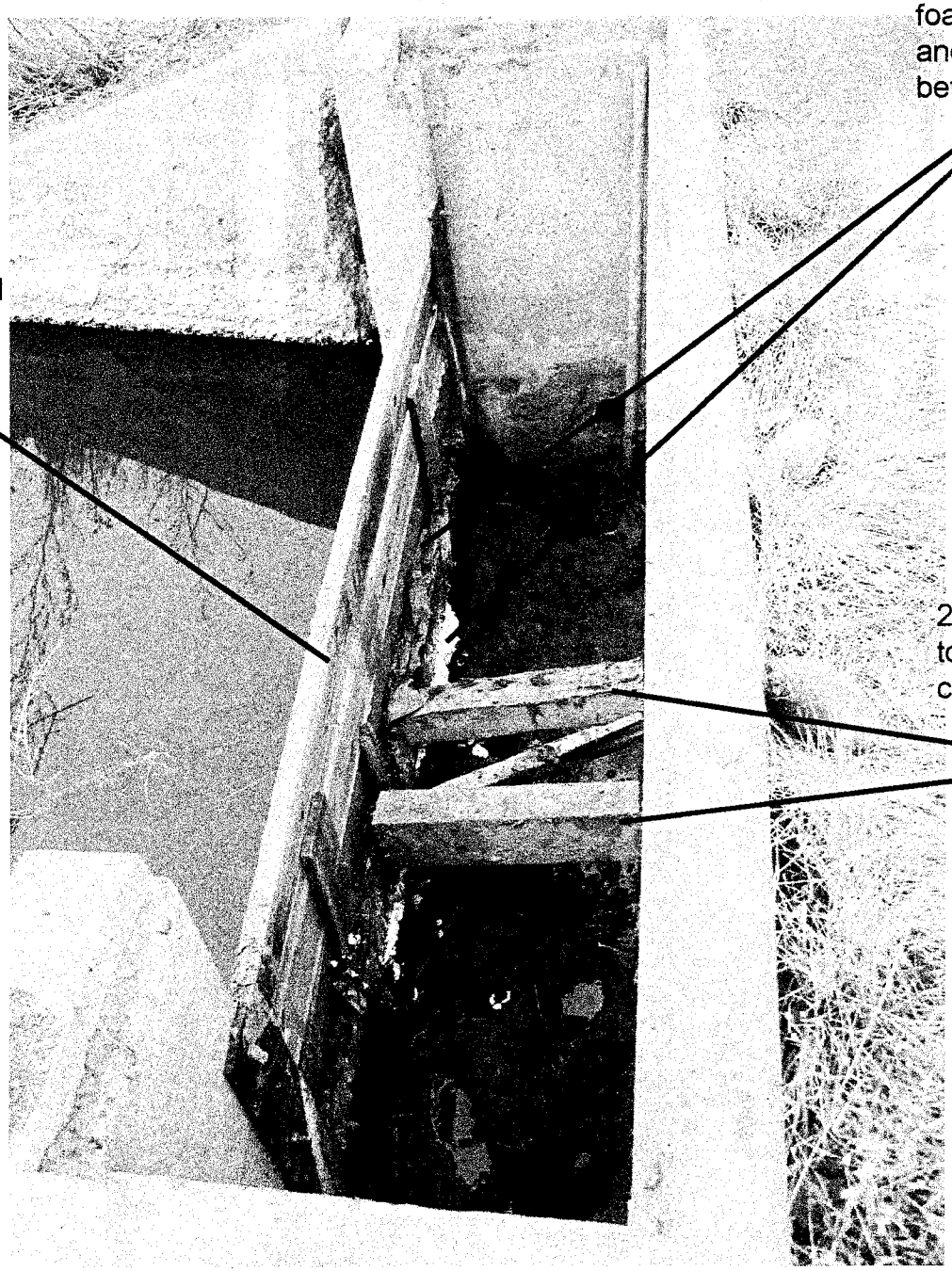
The lagoon currently has lots of storage space in cells 1,2 and 3.



Brady Lagoon - Leakage Prevention from Cell #1 - 11/2/06

Black plastic and expanding foam between bottom board and metal plate to plug gap between board and metal plate.

Wedged and glued in place 3 redwood boards 2" x 8". Glued around edges of boards and between boards with epoxy and Sika Flex.



2 brace boards wedged in place to keep metal plate against cement frame.

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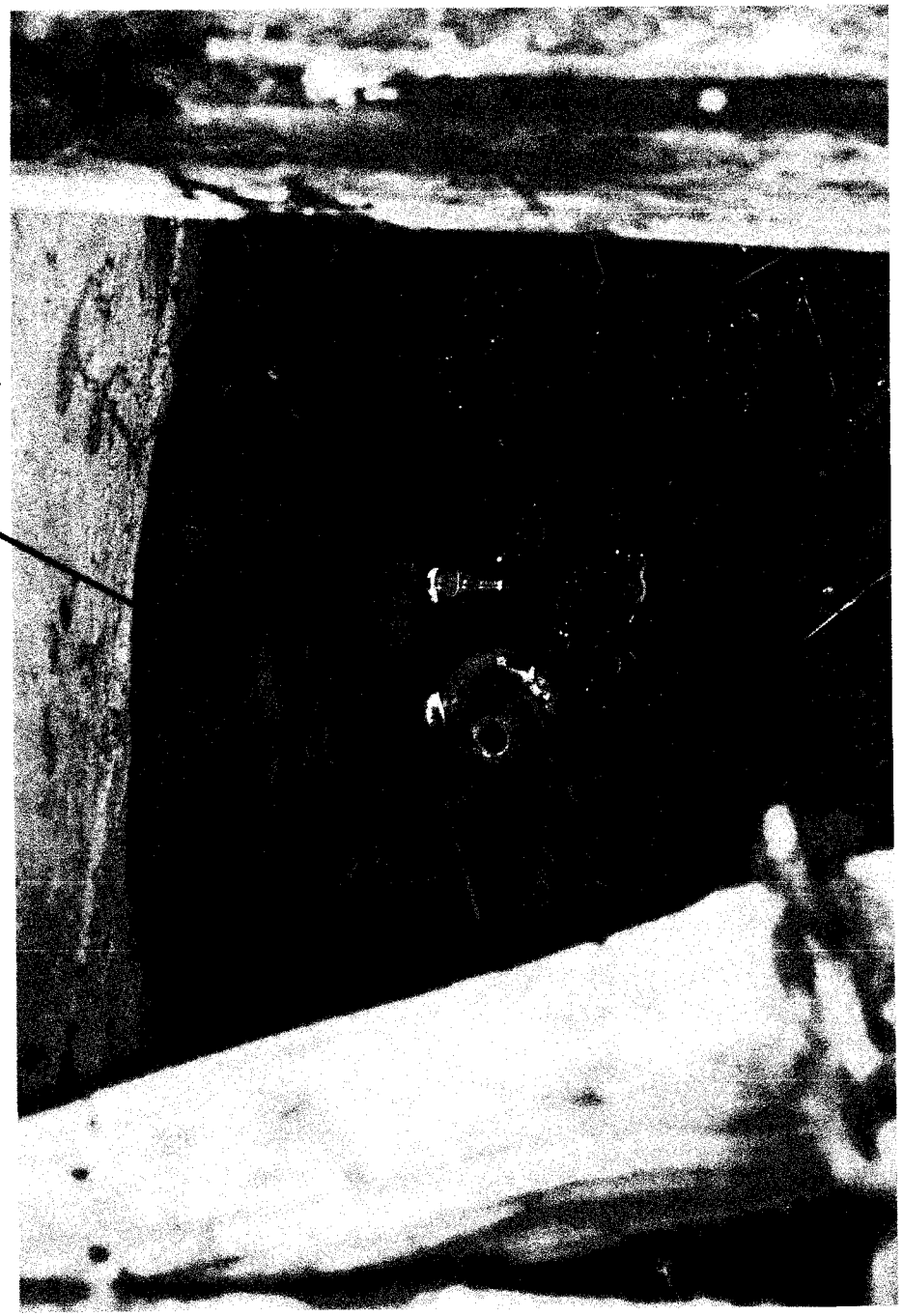

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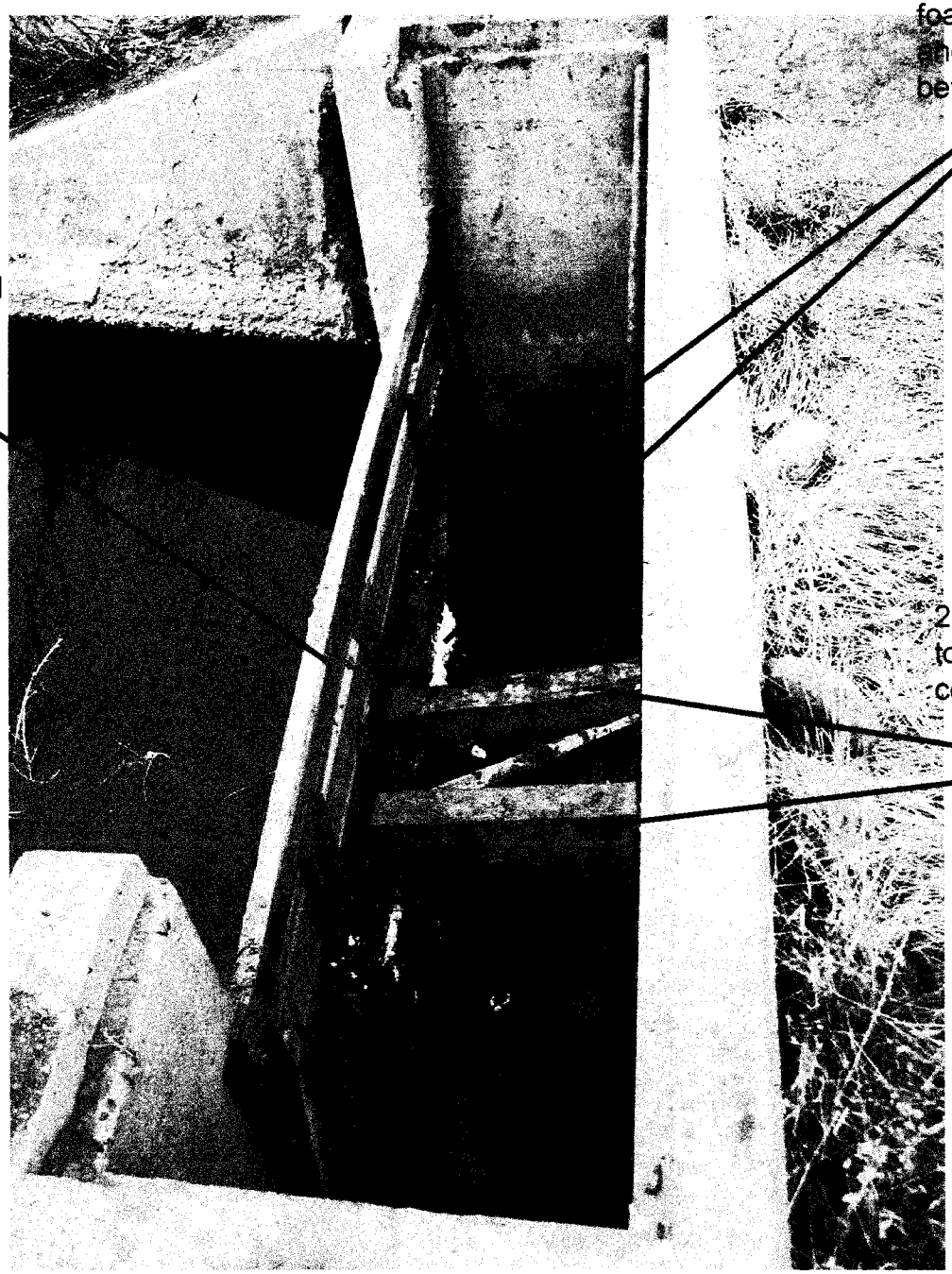

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