

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Wahpeton (Richland County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380940-02

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 3900973-04

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has conducted a review of the proposed 3rd Avenue North Reconstruction project for the City of Wahpeton in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDoH has determined that this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion and is exempt from further substantive environmental review.

Because the proposed project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion, a full Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment will not be required. Following is a description of the proposed project and a brief statement of how the project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion.

The proposed project involves the reconstruction of 3rd Avenue North from 11th Street North to 1st Street North in the City of Wahpeton. This includes the replacement of the roadway, sidewalks, driveways, and municipal utilities. The existing sanitary sewer and storm sewer on 3rd Avenue North were once a combined system. Since their separation the sanitary sewer has been inundated with storm water during moderate to heavy rain events. Frequent surcharging due to infiltration and inflow into the system is observed and bypassing of the sanitary sewer system into the storm sewer is required.

This project will improve all aspects of the roadway and municipal utilities within the project area. Surge and bypass events in the sanitary sewer system will be reduced and aged water main will be replaced. Improvements to the roadway, curb and gutter, and storm sewer will alleviate 3rd and 2nd Avenues from excessive flooding.

The City of Wahpeton has received a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$1,964,000 and a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$807,000 to finance the project. The City has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely in previously-disturbed land in the city right-of-way. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. It has been determined that exempting the proposed project from further review under the National Environmental Policy Act will not result in adverse impacts to the population or area of Wahpeton and Richland County.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the NDDoH, Division of Municipal Facilities.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Bryan R. Schmitt, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Health, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the 5th day of April, 2018.

David J. Bruschwein, P.E.
Director
Division of Municipal Facilities