CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Beach (Golden Valley County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 1700059-01

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed 2021 Street & Utility Improvements for the City of Beach in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDEQ 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 consists of replacement of existing cast iron water pipe, removal and replacement of lead service lines and watermain looping within the south side of the City of Beach. The existing cast iron watermain is in poor condition and has many issues such as scaling and corrosion. These issues have resulted in additional problems such as poor chlorine residuals, discolored water and inadequate flows. The City has experienced increasing operation and maintenance costs due to more frequent system flushing, leaks and breaks.

The proposed project will provide adequate flow capacity of safe drinking water, as well as reduced exposure of lead in drinking water, for the citizens within the City of Beach. Replacing the existing cast iron mains will improve chlorine residuals, improve reliability of the water distribution system, and reduce operation and maintenance costs from pipeline breaks.

The City of Beach has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of $2,074,000 to finance the project. The City has the legal authority and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the new watermains will be placed in previously disturbed areas. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred with a determination of “No Historic Properties Affected” for this project provided it takes place in the location and in the manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5669).
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 Beach and Golden Valley County.

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

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

Dated the 18th day of September 2020.

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