

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Fargo (Cass County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 0900336-04

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has conducted a review of the proposed Filter-To-Waste Improvements project for the City of Fargo 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 will add filter-to-waste capabilities to the six rapid-rate dual-media filters within the conventional water treatment plant. Operators don't currently have the ability to reject filter effluent when turbidity levels are elevated. This project will add additional protection of drinking water by allowing operators to transfer water back to the head of the conventional water treatment plant during turbidity spikes. Highly turbid water may negatively impact the facility's ability to comply with the Surface Water Treatment Rule.

The City of Fargo has obtained a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan 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 within the existing water treatment plant. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer has concluded that no Historic Properties will be affected. 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 Fargo or Cass 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the 22<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018.

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