

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Near-Term Ozone Improvements
Fargo (Cass County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 0900336-04

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Near-Term Ozone Improvements for the City of Fargo 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 will address corrosion, safety and operational issues associated with the existing ozone system in the conventional water treatment facility. The ozone piping and diffusers have become corroded due to age and the formation of nitrous oxides in the ozone feed streams. Increased maintenance and repair have been required to meet process performance needs.

This project will improve operator safety by replacing corroded pipe and diffusers in the existing ozone feed system. The improvements include the separation of ozone and supplemental air to reduce the potential for future corrosion in the new stainless steel pipe. New ozone diffusers will be installed within the ozone contactors to improve the transfer of ozone into the water, reduce future corrosion and make system maintenance easier for water treatment plant staff.

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 NDDEQ, 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 Environmental Quality, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the May 30th, 2019.

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