

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Sims Street Improvements, Phase 2  
Dickinson (Stark County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380933-07

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Sims Street Improvements, Phase 2 project for the City of Dickinson 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 is the second phase of a multiphase project and consists of utility improvements along Sims Street from I-94 south to East 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The existing sanitary sewer along 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East conveys wastewater from various parts of town, including north of I-94, but has limited capacity to accommodate further growth on the north side of the city. Additionally, Lift Station 11 at the south end of the project has been having operational and reliability issues that have resulted in sewer backups. This section of Sims Street has also experienced significant ponding and flooding during rain events due to a lack of sufficient storm sewers. The cast iron watermains and street have also reached the end of their useful life. Failure to correct these issues will result in continued risk to the surrounding environment and public health.

The proposed project will continue construction of the new sanitary sewer main along Sims Street and decommission Lift Station 11. This will alleviate the capacity issues of the existing 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East sewer main and eliminate sewer backups caused by the increasingly unreliable lift station. The installation of an adequate storm sewer to properly manage stormwater will eliminate flooding during rain events. The project will also replace the aging cast iron watermain with PVC pipe and repair the street. These improvements will ensure the consistent and safe conveyance of the city's water, wastewater, and stormwater.

The City of Dickinson plans to apply for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$2,000,000 to help finance the \$6,162,000 project.

(2)

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely within the alignment of existing streets and right-of-ways. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with a determination of No Historic Properties Affected for the project provided it occurs in the location and in the manner described in the documentation and all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 24-0114). 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 Dickinson and Stark 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 Evan Wahl, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

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