

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Sims Street Improvements, 2nd St. E to 9th St. E
City of Dickinson (Stark County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380933-08

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 4500242-04

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Sims Street Improvements, 2nd Street E to 9th Street E project for 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 consists of utility improvements along Sims Street from 2nd Street E to 9th Street E. The existing sanitary sewer has reached the end of its useful life and is showing significant signs of deterioration which include cracking, root intrusion, debris obstructions and settling which may lead to backups and increased maintenance. This section of Sims Street also experiences significant ponding and flooding during rain events due to a lack of sufficient storm sewers. The existing watermain has reached the end of its useful life and is experiencing an increased number of breaks. Failure to correct these issues will result in continued risk to the surrounding environment and public health.

The proposed project will rehabilitate the sanitary sewer collection system using trenchless methods, such as cured-in-place pipe, and open cut excavation to repair sanitary sewer mains and manholes which will eliminate the risk of backups and increased maintenance. The installation of an adequate storm sewer to properly manage stormwater will greatly reduce hazards that arise during rain events. The replacement of the existing watermain with PVC pipe will alleviate the breaking issues associated with aging pipe. This project also involves the replacement of drinking water service lines containing lead materials. Lead service lines have the potential of releasing lead into drinking water causing a potential health risk, particularly to children.

Replacement of lead service lines has become a priority throughout the United States due to the potential health risks from lead exposure in drinking water. This project will replace identified lead service lines with lead-free materials from the water main into the residence structure. By completing replacement, the risk of lead exposure will be significantly reduced. These improvements will ensure consistent and safe conveyance of the city's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater.

The City of Dickinson plans to apply for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans of \$1,000,000 and \$1,000,000, respectively, to help finance the \$7,148,225 project.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely in the alignment of the existing streets and right-of-way owned by the city. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. A Class I Literature Review was required for the watermain and lead service line replacement portion of the project. Upon its review, the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with a determination of "No Adverse Effect" for the project provided replacement pipes for existing lines do not move the existing building penetrations more than two feet. If any existing penetrations need to move more than two feet or if there are any new service lines, please notify their office for further review as there are historic buildings included in this project (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0094). Following review of the sanitary and storm sewer portions of the project, the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" provided the project takes place as described in the documentation and all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0146). 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, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 17th day of June, 2025.

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