

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: LSWTP Filter 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 Lime Softening Water Treatment Plant (LSWTP) Filter Improvements Project 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 improve all six gravity filters at the City of Fargo LSWTP. These improvements include filter media and underdrain replacement, new stainless-steel piping, new valves and actuators, new lighting, and other miscellaneous appurtenances. The existing gravity filter components are more than 20 years old and need replacement. Completion of this project will help ensure that the Fargo LSWTP continues to provide safe drinking water to the public.

The City of Fargo has 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 entirely in or adjacent to the Fargo drinking 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 by 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.: 23-5619). 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 and Cass County.

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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, P.E., Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND 58503-1324.

Dated the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

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