

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: LSWTP Secondary Softening Rehabilitation
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) Secondary Softening Rehabilitation 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 is for the rehabilitation of the secondary lime softening basins and the soda ash feeders at the City of Fargo LSWTP. The equipment in the secondary softening basins is approximately 25 years old and is beyond its useful life. This project will replace the mechanical equipment and recoat the internal structure of the secondary softening basins. The existing soda ash feeder equipment and piping will also be replaced. 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 concurs with a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this project provided the project takes place as described in the documentation (ND SHPO Ref.: 24-0161). 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.

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 18th day of April, 2024.

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