

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Fargo (Cass County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 3808715-08 & 3808715-09

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Leachate Collection Improvements and Waste Relocation 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 consists of reclamation and redevelopment of the former landfill located on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3, Township 139 North, Range 48 West in Cass County. The former landfill was not constructed with a base liner or leachate collection system but is underlain by very low permeable soils. This provides less environmental protection than current landfill design standards.

The proposed project will consist of the excavation of waste currently buried in the former landfill followed by the construction of new disposal cells built to current standards. The proposed project will also remove the pooled leachate from within the waste for treatment at the city's wastewater facility which will provide protection from potential future groundwater impacts. The newly developed lined disposal cells at the former landfill will provide long-term environmental protection in conformance with current landfill standards.

The City of Fargo has applied for Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans of \$4,620,000.00 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 the alignment of the existing landfill. 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 (ND SHPO Ref.: 21-5561). 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 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 Hao Vo, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the 26th day of July, 2021

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