

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Fort Ransom (Ransom County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380960-01

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Sanitary Sewer Improvements Force Main Repair for the City of Fort Ransom 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 replace a broken section of sewer force main that runs under the Sheyenne River and rehabilitate two lift stations. It is estimated the broken pipe was allowing 1,500 gallons of untreated wastewater to enter the river per day. In addition to the broken force main, the concrete walls of lift stations 1 and 2 are heavily deteriorated and in need of immediate repair. The improvements will ensure the safe and reliable operation of the city's sanitary sewer system.

The City of Fort Ransom plans to apply for a Clean 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 the area of the existing sanitary sewer force main and lift stations. 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 the manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 22-6195). 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 Fort Ransom and Ransom 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 Ryan Allery, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND 58503-1324.

Dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2022.

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