

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Wastewater Treatment Improvements  
Gardner (Cass County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380961-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) completed a categorical exclusion determination for the proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements project in the City of Gardner on December 4, 2023. This determination is being amended to include the installation of a permanent generator for a wastewater lift station. The NDDEQ has conducted a review of the proposed addition in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDEQ has determined that this addition is eligible for a categorical exclusion and is exempt from further substantive environmental review.

Because the proposed project addition 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 improvements to the deteriorated wastewater lift station in the City of Gardner. The current lift station is showing signs of significant deterioration. The equipment within the lift station is past its useful life. The existing lift station does not have an adequate backup power source. In the event of a power outage, sanitary sewer would be backed up at the lift station.

Project improvements include replacing pumps, pump bases, hardware, valves, and controls for the lift station. A generator will be installed to ensure wastewater conveyance can occur during an emergency power outage. These enhancements will restore system reliability.

The City of Gardner has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$955,000 to finance the entire 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 within a previously disturbed area. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer has concluded that no historic properties will be affected by this project provided it takes place as described in the documentation and all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 22-6158). 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 Gardner 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 Shawn Martin, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

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