

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Water System Improvements Phase 1
Grafton (Walsh County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 5000408-05

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Water System Improvements Phase 1 for the City of Grafton 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 replacing existing asbestos cement mains with PVC, as well as removing and replacing the existing inoperable lime slaker within the water treatment plant. This will address the current deficiencies in the system and reduce the risk of health and safety hazards.

The City of Grafton has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$2,569,000 to finance a portion of 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 water infrastructure and within the water treatment plant. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with the determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" provided the project 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.: 26-0022). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. NWO-2025-01537-BIS) and determined that a Section 404 permit may be required. 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 Grafton and Walsh 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 Aaron Wellman, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated July 1, 2026.

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