

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

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

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380815-04

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has conducted a review of the proposed water meter replacement project for the City of Horace in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDoH 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.

Water usage in the City of Horace currently operates on the honor system, where the users are expected to read and record their respective water meters. If the user fails to provide a meter reading, they are charged the rate for 10,000 gallons. The City Auditor enters the amount paid and the meter reading into a computer program once the payment coupon is return from the user. City employees do not regularly read the water meters unless the City Auditor suspects an error was made or a discrepancy was noticed in the user provided meter reading. The existing system does not allow the City to accurately meter water usage.

The proposed project is needed to increase the accuracy and efficiency of the water meters in Horace. The project will replace the existing water meters with equally sized meters with the associated connection hardware. Remote radio transmitter units will be installed with each meter and a handheld meter reader will be provided for the City to remotely and accurately record meter readings. Maintenance, operation and accuracy of the water billing system will be more efficient. The installation of more efficient water meters will also reduce the volume water used, thereby reducing the flow and cost of wastewater treatment for the City.

The City of Horace has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$422,000 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 water meter installation will occur entirely in the meter vaults, businesses and residences in the City. 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. 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 Horace and Cass County.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the NDDoH, Division of Municipal Facilities.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Talha K. Nafie, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Health, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018

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