

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Westfield Avenue and University Avenue
Water Main Replacement
City of Minot (Ward County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 5100660-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Westfield Avenue and University Avenue Watermain Replacement Project for the City of Minot 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 improvements to the drinking water distribution system within the City of Minot. The drinking water distribution system in the project area consists primarily of cast iron pipe and is beyond its useful life. Aging cast iron pipe is subject to frequent water main breaks and water quality issues. This project will provide new drinking water distribution piping thus reducing maintenance costs and improving drinking water quality.

The City of Minot plans to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$3,137,200 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 utility easements and city streets. 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 occurs in the location and manner described in the documentation and all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 24-0104). 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 the City of Minot and Ward 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 James Uhlman, P.E., Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 26th of March, 2024.

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