

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Northwood (Grand Forks County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380938-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed 2021 Assessment Job No.1 - Storm Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Improvements for the City of Northwood 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 storm sewer and sanitary sewer throughout the City of Northwood. The storm water system is inadequate and causes water to pond in streets. The sanitary sewer lift station is severely corroded and undersized. A section of sanitary sewer pipe along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue is currently needed to be cleaned weekly due to a sag in the line.

The proposed project will provide adequate conveyance and storage of storm water. The improvements will prevent flooding of the city streets. A new Lift Station No. 5 will be constructed for the sanitary sewer system to replace the original deteriorated lift station. The sagging sanitary sewer piping will be replaced to eliminate the sag and need to be cleaned weekly. A portion of the sanitary sewer will also be extended to Lift Station No.3.

The City of Northwood has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$7,000,000 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 improvements will occur entirely in previously disturbed areas within city right-of-ways. 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 (ND SHPO Ref.: 21-5274). 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 Northwood and Grand Forks 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 R. Martin, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2021.

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