

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Stanley (Mountrail County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380840-03

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 3100898-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Phase 1, Capital Improvements Plan for the City of Stanley 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 water and sewer infrastructure in the city's historical legacy residential neighborhoods. The existing water and sewer infrastructure within this area is between 50 and 70 years old and is beginning to show signs of failure. The water mains have had several breaks, which are difficult to locate and require the shutdown of multiple blocks due to the limited number of valves in the system. Additionally, the system is utilizing outdated cast iron and asbestos cement pipe materials. Likewise, the sanitary sewer system is experiencing many of the same issues, including collapsing and breaking lines, backups, and outdated clay tile materials.

The proposed project involves improvements to the water main and sanitary sewer in the historical legacy residential neighborhoods. Improvements to the water system include updating outdated materials, replacing aged lines, upsizing inadequately sized lines, and adding loops. The sanitary sewer system will be improved by replacing aged and undersized lines. These improvements will ensure the continued safe and reliable water and sanitary sewer services for the current and future residents of Stanley.

The City of Stanley plans to apply for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans of \$4,500,000 and \$4,500,000, respectively, 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 alignment of the existing 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 (ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5567). 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 Stanley and Mountrail 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 Evan Wahl, 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021

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