

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Water Main Replacement Phase 1
City of Steele (Kidder County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 2200913-01

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Water Main Replacement Phase 1 for the City of Steele 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 water main replacement throughout the City of Steele. The existing water main is cast iron and was installed in the 1940s and 1950s. Buildup and sedimentation have restricted flow and the city has had to repair multiple breaks. In addition, some areas of the city have undersized water mains.

The proposed project will replace water mains throughout the City of Steele. The improvements will ensure more reliable service, improved water pressure, and a reduction in service interruptions caused by main breaks. Water mains will be sized according to current design standards.

The City of Steele plans to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$1,456,000 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 improvements will occur entirely in the existing right of way. 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 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.: 24-5157). 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 Steele and Kidder County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. NWO-2023-01693-BIS) and determined that a Section 404 permit would be needed if dredge or fill material is either temporarily or permanently discharged in the waters of the United States.

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 Shannon Fisher, DWSRF Program Manager, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated April 28, 2026.

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