

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Water Tower and Watermain Replacement
Underwood (McLean County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 2800953-01

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Water Tower and Watermain Replacement project for the City of Underwood 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 current 65,000 gallon elevated tank has reached the end of its operating life. The water distribution and pump house also need upgrades as they have components which are beyond their design life and are starting to fail more frequently.

The proposed project will replace the current elevated storage tank with a new 100,000 gallon elevated tank and renovate the existing pump station. A portion of the water distribution system will be upgraded so that the necessary water supply for the city can be maintained adequately.

The City of Underwood has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$1,406,000 to finance a portion of 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 previously disturbed areas. 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 manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 23-5722). 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 Underwood and McLean 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 Danielle Peltier, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 29th of February, 2024.

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