

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Water Syst. Imp. 2026-1 - Water Main Replacement
Underwood (McLean County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 2800953-01

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has reviewed the proposed Water Main Replacement project for the city of Underwood in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDEQ determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion and does not require 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. The 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 city of Underwood's water system. Since the new water tower was put online, the city has experienced an increase in water main breaks because the aging 6-inch cast-iron pipe cannot withstand the increased pressure. These breaks have required emergency repairs.

The proposed project will replace the existing cast iron main with new 6-inch PVC through certain sections of the city. The city has experienced multiple watermain breaks in a condensed area that will be replaced with this project; this allows for lower maintenance and future emergency repairs.

The city of Underwood has obtained a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to finance the project. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

This project qualifies for a categorical 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 in the manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 26-0071). It has been determined that exempting the proposed project from further review under NEPA will not result in adverse impacts to the population or area of Underwood and McLean County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. CENWO-ODR-N) and determined that a Section 404 permit is not required.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the 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 St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated Aug. 26, 2026

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