

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: 2025 Sanitary Sewer Reline  
City of Valley City (Barnes County), North  
Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380887-05

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed 2025 Sanitary Sewer Reline for the City of Valley City 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 sanitary sewer system in the City of Valley City. The existing sanitary sewer mains in residential areas have root infiltration resulting in impeded flow and offset joints. Additionally, manholes and sanitary sewer mains in the downtown area are in a deteriorating state due to age.

The proposed project will include relining sanitary sewer mains and rehabilitating the existing sanitary sewer manholes that are deteriorating. This will improve functionality and reliability in the city's sanitary sewer system.

The City of Valley City has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$600,000 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 previously disturbed areas. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for the trenchless lining portion of the project and point repairs shown on the submitted map outside the areas of the Trolley Tracks on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Central Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street NE (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0258). 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 Valley City and Barnes County. The U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. NWO-2020-00311-BIS) 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 NDDEQ, Division of Municipal Facilities.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Ryan Allery, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025

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