

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: NW Standpipe Replacement
Valley City (Barnes County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 0200958-05

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed NW Standpipe Replacement project for 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. 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 will improve water storage and correct inadequate water pressure in northwest Valley City. The NW Standpipe is failing to provide adequate water pressure due to leaking and limited capacity. Also, the NW Spheroid Water Tower is aging and in need of rehabilitation.

The project is for the construction of a new elevated water storage tank located at the same site as the existing NW Standpipe. The project will also remove the NW Standpipe and the NW Spheroid Water Tower and consolidate Pressure Zones 6 and 7 with the use of two new pressure-reducing vaults. This will correct chronic low water pressures in northwest Valley City and increase system reliability. Additionally, the city will be able to reduce the time, cost, and equipment associated with maintaining fewer water storage facilities.

Valley City is applying for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to partially finance the project. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

Project construction will occur within the right-of-way and existing City owned property. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred with a "No Historic Properties Affected" determination provided the project takes place in the manner and location described in the documentation and all borrow comes from an approved source. (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0264). 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-2025-00844-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 Hristo Papalichev, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 13th day of August, 2025

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