

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Williston (Williams County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 5301686-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Williston Regional Water Treatment Plant Phase VI Improvements for the Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWSA) 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 raw water intake, raw water pump station, pretreatment slurry pumps, addition of an onsite sodium hypochlorite generation system, six additional 2.1 million gallon per day (MGD) dual media filters, one 14 MGD softening basin, two new 4000 GPM pumps in the existing clear well and chemical feed system expansions. Also included in the proposed project is the existing ultraviolet (UV) system that has been re-certified and will be used to make sure the treated water meets the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). WAWSA experienced a significant demand increase in 2021 during a severe drought that pushed the system to near 90% capacity.

The proposed improvements will allow the plant to expand from treating 21 MGD to 35 MGD to provide safe and reliable water to all users being served water by WAWSA. This will also allow for the future addition of users to be served by WAWSA.

The Western Area Water Supply Authority plans to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Loan to finance the project.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur within the areas of the existing Water Treatment Plant, the existing raw water intake pumphouse and the existing raw water intake. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, if consulted by a federal agency, would concur with a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this project provided it takes place in the location and manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source. It has been determined that exempting the proposed project from

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further review under the National Environmental Policy Act will not result in adverse impacts to the population or area of Williston and Williams 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 Mitchell Murray, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

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