

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Water Tower 1 & 2 Rehabilitation
City of Wahpeton (Richland County), North
Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 3900973-07

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Water Tower 1 & 2 Rehabilitation for the City of Wahpeton 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 structural repairs and replacement of both the interior and exterior coatings for Water Tower 1 and 2. Water Tower 1 was constructed in 1969 and the coatings were replaced in 2005. Water Tower 2 was constructed in 2004. Both water towers are experiencing corrosion due to coating failures.

The proposed project will ensure that Water Tower 1 and 2 will continue to provide service to the City of Wahpeton for the next 20 years. The improvements will protect the quality of water in the towers by reducing the potential entry of contaminants.

The City of Wahpeton has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$3,011,000 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 to existing infrastructure. 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 (ND SHPO Ref.: 26-0097). 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 Wahpeton and Richland County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. NOW-2005-60017-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 Shannon Fisher, DWSRF Program Manager, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated March 31, 2026

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