

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Lead Service Line Replacement
City of Washburn (McLean County), North
Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 2800989-04

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has reviewed the proposed Lead Service Line Replacement project for the City of Washburn 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 involves replacing drinking water service lines containing lead materials. Lead service lines have the potential of releasing lead into drinking water posing a health risk, particularly to children. Replacing lead service lines is a priority nationwide because of the health risks associated with lead exposure in drinking water. This project will replace identified lead service lines with lead-free materials from the water main into the residence structure. By completing replacement, the risk of lead exposure will be significantly reduced.

The City of Washburn plans to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$732,000 to finance the project. The city has the legal authority and the financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

This project qualifies for a categorical exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely within existing service line trenches. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concluded that the project will have no adverse effect provided it takes place within existing service line trenches, all borrow comes from an approved source, and an inadvertent discovery plan is prepared (ND SHPO Ref.: 26-0121). It has been determined that exempting the proposed project from further review under the NEPA will not result in adverse impacts to the population or area of Washburn and McLean County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. NWO-2016-01305-BIS) and determined that a Section 404 permit will only be required if there is a discharge of dredge or fill material into any water of the United States.

The 2026 construction year of the Washburn Lead Service Line Replacement project is considered cleared under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Section 106 is separate from the NEPA categorical exclusion, and this categorical exclusion does not exclude future phases of this project from Section 106 review. The Section 106 concurrence is valid only for the listed phase/year. Each additional year of the project will require cultural resources review to meet the requirements under Section 106 of the NHPA. The City of Washburn must contact the Review and Compliance team at the State Historical Society of North Dakota annually for additional reviews as project phases develop.

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 Shannon Fisher, DWSRF Program Manager, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated Sept. 1, 2026.

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