

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Water Treatment Plant Phase III Optimization
City of Mandan (Morton County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 3000596-11

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Water Treatment Plant Phase III Optimization for the City of Mandan 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 City of Mandan drinking water treatment plant. Existing bulk lime storage and carbon dioxide storage is insufficient during peak day water demands and any disruption to the delivery of lime or carbon dioxide could cause disruption to water service for the City of Mandan. Additionally, the existing carbon dioxide storage tank and other water treatment plant components are at or near the end of their useful life.

This project includes the expansion of lime and carbon dioxide storage, improvements to the existing rapid rate gravity filters, and replacement or rehabilitation of equipment nearing or past its useful life. These improvements will allow for a more flexible lime and carbon dioxide delivery, ensuring that the system meets peak water demands. In addition, the filter and equipment improvements will be critical for the continued reliability of the water treatment plant and for operator safety.

The City of Mandan has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$ 4,974,000 to finance a portion of 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 or adjacent to the existing Mandan water treatment plant. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with a determination of "No Adverse Effect" provided the project takes place as described in the documentation and all borrow comes from an

approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 24-0292). The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer also noted that if human burials are discovered, they shall be handled in compliance with North Dakota Century Code 23-06-27 and North Dakota Administrative Code 40-02-03. 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 Mandan and Morton 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 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 February, 2025

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