

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: North Prairie RWD (McHenry County), ND

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 5101189-05

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has conducted a review of the proposed Water Treatment Plant Addition for the North Prairie Rural Water District (NPRWD) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDoH 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 adding a pre-sedimentation basin to the existing NPRWD Water Treatment Plant. The water supply at the NPRWD water treatment plant is high in iron and manganese. The current treatment process adds a coagulant to the water in the transfer basin where the iron and manganese starts to settle out; however, a lot of this material carries over into the filters during high usage and causes material to settle out in the reverse osmosis (RO) system. NPRWD must operate the plant at a lower capacity to allow adequate detention time in the small transfer basin and backwash time for the filters. In addition, the iron and manganese settle to the bottom of the transfer basin and must be cleaned approximately twice a year. During these cleanings approximately three feet of sludge is removed from the bottom of the tank.

The proposed project will add a pre-sedimentation basin to the head works of the plant to adequately remove the oxidized iron and manganese before it reaches the rest of the treatment process. This will lengthen time between backwashes and allow the water treatment plant to operate at full capacity.

The North Prairie Rural Water District plans to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to finance the project. The NPRWD 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 within the existing Water Treatment Plant. 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. It has been determined that

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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 Voltaire and McHenry County.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the NDDoH, Division of Municipal Facilities.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Henok A. Woldeyes, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Health, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018

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