

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Grand Forks (Grand Forks County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380806-04

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Grand Forks Wastewater Treatment Facility (GFWWTF) Chemical, Microbubble Floatation, Reactor, and Bypass Improvements for the City of Grand Forks 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 Wastewater Treatment Facility that serves the city of Grand Forks. Portions of the existing facility have been found to be insufficient due to the expansion of industrial users, the current physical condition, and the age of the components. Failure to perform the recommended improvements may result in the discharge of wastewater that exceeds the city's discharge permit requirements. The proposed chemical feed system, microbubble floatation piping, reactor operator access, and bypass pipe improvements are necessary for GFWWTF to meet permitted effluent limits.

The City of Grand Forks has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan of \$1,425,000. 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 existing right of ways and on the city owned GFWWTF property. 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 (ND SHPO Ref.: 19-5788). 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 Grand Forks and Grand Forks 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 Hao Vo, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the 29th day of July, 2019.

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