

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Sanitary Force Main Improvements
City of Buffalo (Cass County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380757-03

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Sanitary Force Main Improvements project for the City of Buffalo 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 replacing the existing sanitary sewer force main. The force main is composed of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) and has reached the end of its useful life. The existing 4-inch diameter pipe is not adequate to accommodate demand flow resulting in excessive stress on existing pumps. The proposed project will correct these deficiencies by replacing the existing 4-inch ACP sewer force main with 6-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe. In addition, replacing the ACP with PVC will reduce risks to public health and the environment.

The City of Buffalo has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$1,330,000 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 within the existing city right-of-way or land that is owned by the city. 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 and all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 23-6267). 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 Buffalo and Cass 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 Ryan Allery, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 30th day of September 2024

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