

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Upper Souris Water Users District (Ward, Renville, and Bottineau Counties), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 5101074-01

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Instrument, Controls, and Electronic Improvements for the Upper Souris Water Users District (USWUD) 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 instrument, controls, and electronics within current facilities. Current aging systems are restricting expansion of the system to rural residents interested in a new and improved water source.

The proposed project would make the system operate better and more efficiently, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the overall system.

The USWUD has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$1,274,000 to finance the project. The USWUD 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 within existing buildings and facilities. 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.: 22-6405). 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 Ward, Renville, and Bottineau Counties.

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 James Uhlman, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 11th day of January, 2023.

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