

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Wahpeton (Richland County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380940-04

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 3900973-06

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Loy Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street North Reconstruction project for the City of Wahpeton 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 existing infrastructure in the project area was constructed in the 1970's and has reached the end of its useful life. The streets and their corresponding infrastructure are outdated and in poor condition, resulting in continued maintenance and issues with traffic flow and safety. The sanitary sewer system consists of multiple different pipe materials and areas of pipe failure. This results in the possibility of raw sewage entering the surrounding soils, as well as inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system. Additionally, the surface water drainage in the area is inadequate, and the existing storm sewer system is undersized. This results in poor surface conditions caused by standing water and flooding during rain events.

The proposed project will take place along portions of Loy Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Street North, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, and Concord Court. It will involve street reconstruction and repairs, replacing the sanitary sewer and watermain, and construction of a new storm sewer system. These improvements will ensure consistent and safe handling of wastewater and adequate management of stormwater.

The City of Wahpeton has applied for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans of \$1,964,000 and \$1,103,000, respectively, 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 entirely in the alignment of the existing street right-of-ways. 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 provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 21-5967). 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 Wahpeton and Richland 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 Evan Wahl, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2021.

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