

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As required by guidelines for the preparation of environmental impact statements, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project: Hillsboro Area Water Treatment Plant Expansion

Customer: East Central Regional Water District

Location: Hillsboro (Traill County), North Dakota

DWSRF Project No.: 1801062-06

Total Cost: \$34,000,000

The proposed project is for the expansion of the East Central Regional Water District (ECRWD) water treatment plant (WTP) near the City of Hillsboro. The expansion will increase the overall WTP capacity by 800 gallons per minute using media pressure filtration and RO membrane filtration. This treatment technology can remove emerging contaminants from groundwater, including manganese. Completion of this project will help ensure that ECRWD can provide safe drinking water for current and future rural water users.

ECRWD has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$8,554,000 to finance a portion of the project. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

The WTP expansion will be constructed on land adjacent to the existing facility. For a further discussion of this, see Item V, Environmental Impacts of Proposed Project in the Environmental Assessment document. Wetlands, area flood plains, threatened or endangered species habitat, or archeological sites will not be adversely impacted. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office concurs with the determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this project provided it avoids 32TR759, provided there is archaeological monitoring during ground disturbance, provided the project takes place as described in the documentation, and provided all borrow comes from an approved source. An inadvertent discovery plan was prepared for the project due to the potential for human remains in this area (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0214). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. NWO-2025-00436-BIS) and determined that a Section 404 permit would be required for the discharge of dredge or fill material (temporarily or permanently) in waters of the United States.

The review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an environmental impact statement has been made. This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the engineering report, environmental information document, and other supporting data that are on file in the Municipal Facilities Division of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Bryan Schmitt, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

After evaluating the comments received, the agency will make a final decision; however, no administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Dated the 31st day of October, 2025.

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