

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: Lead Service Line Replacement

Customer: City of Grafton

Location: Grafton (Walsh County), North Dakota

SRF Project No.: 5000408-04

Total Cost: \$900,000

The proposed project involves the replacement of drinking water service lines containing lead materials. Lead service lines have the potential of releasing lead into drinking water causing a potential health risk, particularly to children. Replacement of lead service lines has become a priority throughout the United States due to the potential health risks from lead exposure in drinking water. This project will replace identified lead service lines with lead-free materials from the water main into the residence structure. By completing this replacement, the risk of lead exposure will be significantly reduced.

The City of Grafton plans to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to finance the project. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

The project area will be within the city at the site of each replacement. For 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 Officer (SHPO) concurs with the determination of "No Adverse Effect" provided replacement pipes for any existing lead service lines do not move existing building penetrations more than 2 feet. If any existing penetrations need to move more than two feet or if there are any new service lines, SHPO will be notified for further review as there are historic buildings included in this project, including the Grafton State School (32WA464). If open cut installation is required, the trench will be hand-excavated within 5 feet of the structure. (ND SHPO Ref.: 24-0332). 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 Grafton and Walsh County.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. NOW-2024-01441-BIS) and determined that a Section 404 permit may be required.

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.

The 2026 construction year of the Grafton Lead Service Line Replacement project is considered NHPA cleared, granted the replacement piping does not move the building penetration location more than 2 feet from existing penetrations. Section 106 is separate from the NEPA categorical exclusion, and this categorical exclusion does not exclude future phases of this project from Section 106 review. The Section 106 concurrence is valid only for the listed phase/year. Each additional year of the project will require cultural resources review to meet the requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The City of Grafton must contact the Review and Compliance team at the State Historical Society of North Dakota annually for additional reviews as project phases develop.

Questions or comments regarding this Finding of No Significant Impact may be submitted to Aaron Wellman, 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 Feb. 4, 2026.

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