

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: Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWSA) – Northwest Rural Water District (NWRWD) – 29 Mile Rural Distribution

Location: Williams and Divide Counties, North Dakota

DWSRF Project No.: 5301686-02

Total Cost: \$9,425,000

The proposed project is for improvements to the regional water system. The existing area has experienced tremendous growth. Expanded energy related ventures, have brought a large new workforce to the area and significantly increased residential water demands that are causing existing sources and systems difficulty in meeting the increased water demands for the region. Without the expansion of the NWRWD distribution system, the potential for unreliable service and limited water quantity to Williams and Divide Counties are high.

The Western Area Water Supply Authority has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$2,125,000 to finance the project. The WAWSA has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

The project site will include an easement along approximately 158 miles of land and will provide water to rural customers. For a further discussion of this see Item V, Environmental Impacts of Proposed Project in the attached 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 has concluded that no historic properties will be affected by this project (ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5464).

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 which are on file in the Municipal Facilities Division of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.

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Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Henok Woldeyes, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

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 20th day of July 2020.

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