

## **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: East Williston & County Road 9 Rural Distribution  
Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWSA) and Northwest  
Regional Water District (NWRWD)

Location: Williams County, North Dakota

DWSRF Project No.: 5301686-02

Total Cost: \$12,073,575

The proposed project is for the installation of additional rural water pipe to connect new users to the existing drinking water distribution system. The purpose of these improvements is to provide potable drinking water to residents in the rural water service area. This project will ensure that WAWSA and NWRWD can continue to serve existing and new residents in Williams County.

The WAWSA has obtained a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan to finance the project. The rural water district has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

This project is located in northwestern North Dakota and will install approximately 73 miles of rural water pipe in Williams County. For a further discussion of this see Item VI, 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 US Fish and Wildlife has determined that the project may affect piping plover. The project will avoid construction within one-half mile of the Little Muddy River during the breeding season of April 15 to August 15.

The North Dakota Game and Fish requested that the Little Muddy River be crossed by directional boring, and if that is not feasible, construction should not take place within the waterway between April 15 and June 1, and controls should be implemented to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (ND SHPO) has concurred with the “No Adverse Effect” determination for the proposed project area (ND SHPO Ref.: 24-0101) provided sites 32WI89, 32WI940, 32WI950, 32WI1286, 32WI2087, 32WI1235, 32WI2084, 32WI949 and 32WI939 are avoided as described in the accepted Class III Cultural Resource Inventory report and the project takes place in the location and manner described in the documentation and all borrow comes from an approved source.

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.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Mitchell Murray, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

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