

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Larimore (Grand Forks County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380768-01

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 1800550-02

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has conducted a review of the proposed water main, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer improvement project for the City of Larimore in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDoH 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 proposed project will address deficiencies and inadequacies within the city's infrastructure systems. The mostly cast-iron pipe water distribution system is deteriorating, undersized, and provides inadequate fire flow. Many residents have experienced rusty water at their taps due to the deteriorating water mains. The existing Vitrified Clay Pipe (VCP) sanitary sewer does not meet the minimum slope and separation distance requirements. The sanitary sewer also has many breaks and cracks, allowing excessive infiltration. Sanitary sewer Lift Station 1 is old and in very poor condition and will be replaced. The absence of a complete storm sewer system causes surface flooding in the streets, which results in deterioration of the pavement and potholes. The existing storm sewer has catch basins in three locations which connect directly to the sanitary sewer, which can overwhelm the sanitary sewer system during storm events. This could result in sewer backups into homes and businesses.

The proposed improvements will prevent health risks associated with the lift station, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water main failures.

The City of Larimore has applied for a Clean Water Fund loan of \$9,360,000 and 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.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely within existing 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. 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 Larimore and Grand Forks County.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the NDDoH, Division of Municipal Facilities.

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

Dated the 5th day of April 2018.

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