

## DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

### CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Drinking Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

This information reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded wholly or in part through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, please provide them at this time. The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Water Improvements 2021  
APPLICANT: Grant, Nebraska  
COUNTY: Perkins  
POPULATION: 1,165 (2010 census)  
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311675  
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$1,585,500  
ESTIMATED LOAN FORGIVENESS: \$317,100  
ESTIMATED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,268,400

The City of Grant has applied for funding, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program jointly administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services-Division of Public Health (DHHS) and the NDEE, to replace existing water lines in excess of sixty years old with larger mains for greater capacity and fire protection, and to attain better water distribution from the water storage facility and 8<sup>th</sup> Street water well.

This project was listed on the Planning List in the State Fiscal Year 2021 Intended Use Plan (IUP) and ranked at 4 points. The project can be funded in accordance with the IUP's listed bypass criteria, as the bypass date of October 1, 2020 has passed. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEE, this project was determined to be eligible for a 30-year loan at an interest rate of 0.0%, per the criteria listed in the IUP. The administrative fee is assessed at 0.0% as well. Grant is eligible for loan forgiveness of up to 20%. In addition, should Grant be willing to agree to extend the prepayment clause of their existing DWSRF loan agreement D311595 for 10 years, the City will also be eligible for an added forgiveness in the amount of \$374,211. The current residential water rate is \$17.50 per month. The typical long-term annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$46,508. Based on 692 active service connections, residential water rates may need to be raised approximately \$5.60 per month to address the new debt service.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act review specified in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and the Department has determined that this

project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared. The project as proposed is solely directed toward rehabilitation of the existing sanitary sewer. Justification for categorical exclusion includes:

- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric archeological or cultural value, including but not limited to, properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas as wetlands, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- Based on a review of the available mapping, no portion of the project lies within the 100-year floodplain; and,
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans;

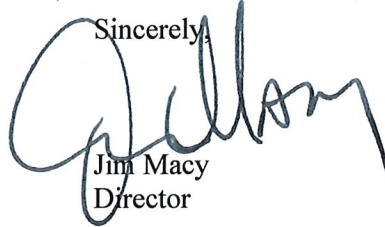
The City has a permit to operate a public water system under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179. The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the public water system maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in February of 2020, wherein no deficiencies were noted. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. Grant will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TFM Assessment by the DHHS, to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The NDEE shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of exclusion, the state determines that the proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project, or new evidence reveals that serious local or environmental issues exist, or federal, state, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken on the basis of careful review of the application and other supporting data, which are on file in the office of the NDEE. These are available for public review upon request. Persons having a comment on this categorical exclusion determination are encouraged to submit such comments directly to Andrew Klescewski, Review Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-4260 or email: [andrew.klescewski@nebraska.gov](mailto:andrew.klescewski@nebraska.gov). Additionally, comments may be directed to John Danforth, Project Manager for the State Revolving Fund Program of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-3373 or email: [john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov).

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Macy", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jim Macy  
Director

JM/amk

Attachments: Distribution List  
Maps

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST  
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