



CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Clean 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 encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Rehabilitation, Sludge Removal and Resealing of Cell No. 1 of Benedict's Wastewater Lagoon System and CCTV and Sliplining of Portions of the Sanitary Collection System.

APPLICANT: Benedict, Nebraska

COUNTY: York

POPULATION: 234 (2010 Census)

CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318053

NDEE ID No.: 57656

AWIN SUSTAINABILITY SCORE: 13

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$43,500

TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$490,900

ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$340,900

CWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS: \$150,000

The Village of Benedict is planning a rehabilitation project for their complete retention Wastewater Lagoon Treatment Facility and sliplining selected portions of their sanitary sewer collection system. The Village has applied for financial assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program to fund this project.

Benedict's current wastewater treatment system is a two-cell complete retention lagoon system constructed with cell one built in 1963 and cell two built in 1982. The lagoon system has a total water surface area of 3.64 acres. The Village has operated the two cells in series and has occasionally land applied wastewater when the lagoons were full. Rehabilitation will remove sludge from both cells and deepen the first cell to match cell no. 2 floor depth, thereby providing a 5.3 ft full depth. Cell no. 2 has a six-foot depth obtained by PTO pumping. This extra capacity will be kept and an electric pump in a pump pit will be installed to facilitate level adjustments. Cell no. 1 interior banks will be reworked and have riprap added for slope stabilization. Cell no. 1's deeper floor will be resealed to meet the 1/8 inch per day maximum seepage requirement. The collection system was

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Jim Macy, Director

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studied for Infiltration and Inflow (I&I). The system lies above the groundwater table and flows to the lagoon have been measured at 11,200 gpd or 47.9 gallon per capita per day (gpcd) showing no sign of I&I. The design flow using a 20-year design population projection of 255 equates to 13,100 gpd flow or a 61 gpcd contribution. In reviewing previous CCTV of 10% of Benedict collection system, heavy root intrusion was seen and protruding laterals. The CCTV rated severe condition lengths can be corrected by cured in place pipe (CIPP) sliplining. The remaining of the sewer system will be CCTV and sanitary lines corrected if needed.

The project is eligible for financing through the CWSRF and is currently found in the SFY2021 Intended Use Plan, planning list ranked at 80 points. Eligible costs include engineering and inspection of the project. Benedict's 2018 median household income is \$43,500 and has an Assessing Wastewater Infrastructure Needs (AWIN) risk sustainability score of 13, which qualifies Benedict for loan forgiveness. Loan Forgiveness is capped at \$150,000 and is dependent on the availability of funds. The CWSRF loan will be at a term of 20 years at a program interest rate of 0.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.5 percent of the outstanding principal balance would be assessed each year.

Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the loan. Current residential sewer use rates are a flat rate of \$9.00 per month. The Village has been transferring money to the Sewer Fund to meet budget on the order of \$16,000 for FY2019. Sewer rates should be increased to meet these annual budget shortfalls by \$11.60 per month. The Village of Benedict has approximately 115 combined residential and commercial sewer connections. Sewer rates would need to be raised by \$15.64 per month to cover the CWSRF debt service and a 10% coverage requirement. This would equate to an average projected residential sewer rate of approximately \$36.24 per month, which includes the existing rate, budget shortfall, and CWSRF debt service.

The only environmental issue identified was that Benedict's existing lagoon system lies within the 100-year flood plain. The top of dikes are required to be one foot above the 100 year flood plain elevation of 1,667 ft AMSL. These will be checked during development of plans and specifications and new dike tops will be designed at the required flood proof elevation if needed. The existing cells were designed with floodproofing in mind, it is not anticipated that additional fill will be required.

NDEE reviewed the proposed project 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 lagoons of Benedict's wastewater treatment lagoon system and sanitary collection system repair.

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. No significant increases in odors are expected.
- 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, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;

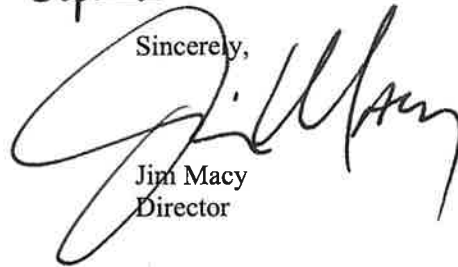
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas as wetlands, floodplains, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat. The lagoon site is located in a designated 100-year flood plain for the unincorporated areas of York County. The lagoon top of dikes will be flood proofed according to Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) requirements by being elevated one foot above the 100-year flood elevation.
- 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 inconsistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans. The project does not discriminate against any segment of the community's population.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy 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 Tom Fuenning, Review Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-4989 or email: tom.fuenning@nebraska.gov or Sarah Frey, Project Manager, of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-4266 or email: sarah.frey@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 22nd day of September 2021.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

JM/tsf

Attachments: Distribution List
Maps

- Figure 1.1, Location Map
- Figure 1.4, NDNR BFE Map
- Figure 2.2, Existing Waste Stabilization Ponds
- Figure 2.6 Historic Problem Areas (Collection System)

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST

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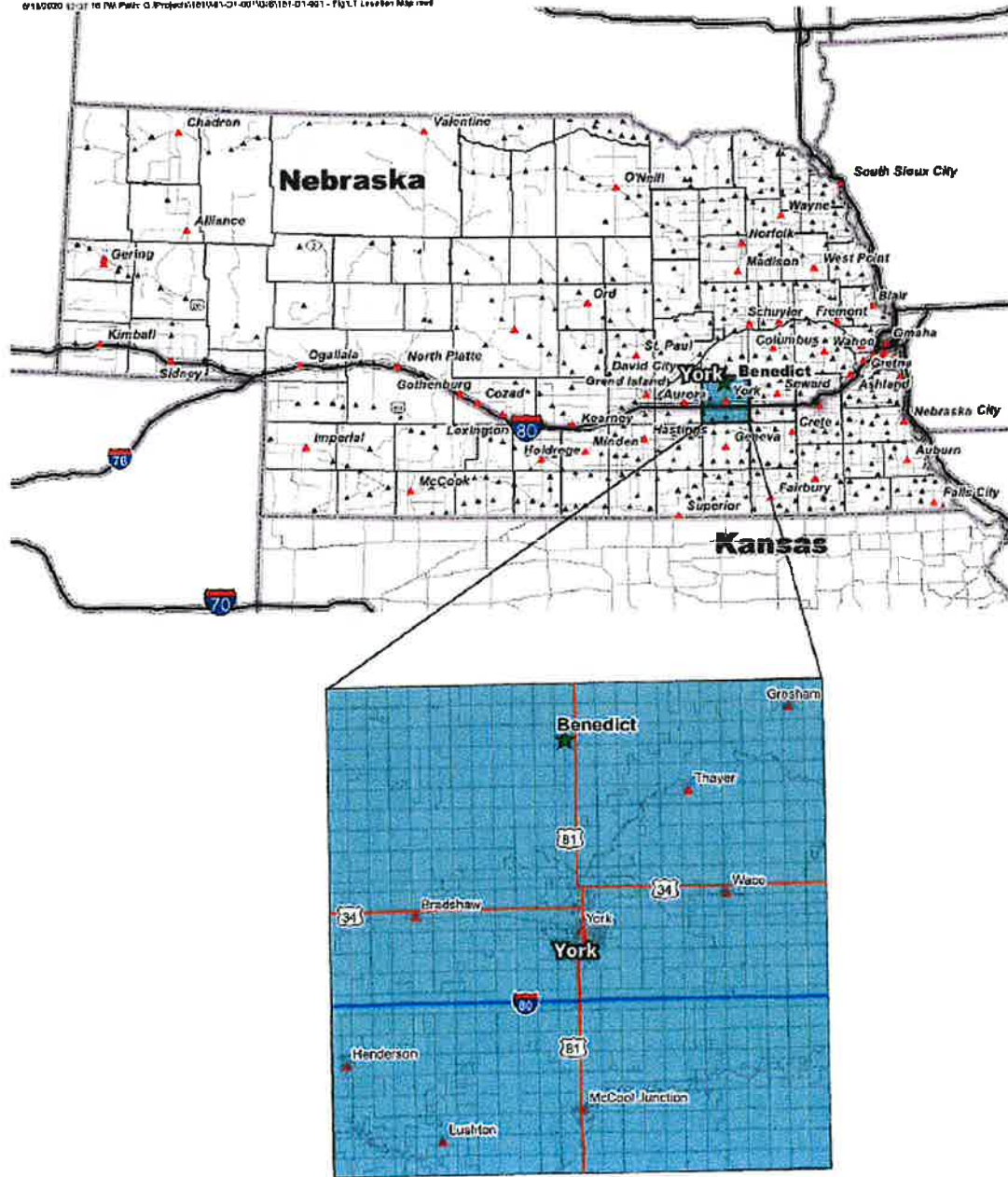
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Figure 1.1
Location Map
Project 181-D1-001
York County, Nebraska

Section 24-12-03W
York County

Valid: September 25, 2020
 until Superseded
 Effective FIRM dated: 08/01/2019

Legend

-  BFE -- NAVD 1988
 -  Section
 -  Community
- Effective Flood Zones**
-  1% Annual Chance
 -  0.2% Annual Chance



Please see page 2 for the Use and Limitations of this BFE Determination

This BFE was determined by:

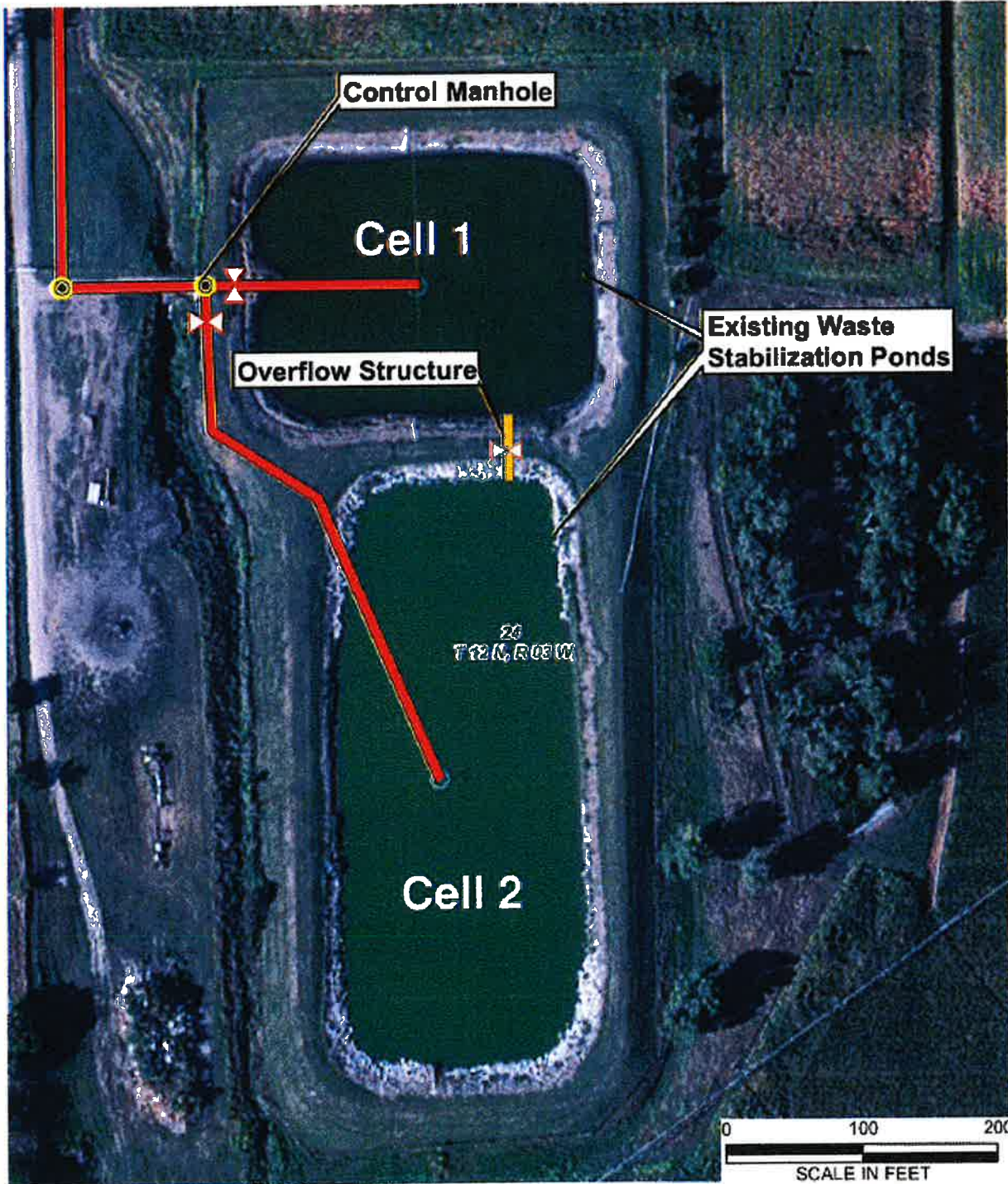
John Schlap

Figure 1.4
NDNR BFE Map

Project 181-D1-001
 Benedict, Nebraska



R 03 W



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Note:
 1. USGS Map acquired from:
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Figure 2.2
Existing Waste
Stabilization Ponds
 Project 181-D1-001
 Benedict, Nebraska

