



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 (NEPA), 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: Low River Level Intake and Filter to Waste Discharge Line
APPLICANT: City of Blair
COUNTY: Blair
POPULATION: 7,990
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311647
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$14,998,000
WATER SUSTAINABILITY FUND: \$6,006,000
FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$1,348,800
ESTIMATED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$7,643,200

The City of Blair 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 install a low river level intake for their raw water supply on the Missouri River, along with constructing a backwash filter to waste line from the Water Treatment Plant's (WTPs) backwash water recovery basin. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers notified the City that in the near future during drought conditions, Missouri River flows will be managed resulting in levels well below the system's current intake elevation. The new intake structure is thus needed to provide supply to the City during those new federally mandated operating levels. The project has received a separate grant from Nebraska's Water Sustainability Fund, to help measurably offset the cost impact of the needed project. Then as a result of a March 2019 Flood Disaster, even though the safe operation of the WTP continued, monitoring showed that a permanent backwash filter to waste line would be a sensible capital improvement to ensure the City's ability to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water under all operating conditions.

According to the Priority Ranking System this project is considered to be a high priority and was included on the Planning List in the State Fiscal Year 2020 Intended Use Plan (IUP). The

project can be funded in accordance with the IUPs listed bypass criteria, as the bypass date of October 1, 2019 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 1.5% per the criteria listed in the IUP. In addition to principal and interest, an administrative fee of 0.5% of the loan balance will be assessed. The City is eligible for forgiveness assistance capped at 15%, based on the community's population. The current residential water rate \$8.40 plus \$1.31 for every 1,000 gallons, or \$14.95 per month for 5,000 gallons of water used. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$390,812. Based upon the 3,156 active service connections, residential water rates may need to be raised approximately \$10.32 per month to address the new debt service; however, a final assessment of any potential rate increase would be made by the City after the completion of the project.

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 the replacement of existing infrastructure. 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, 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, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- Based on a review of the available mapping, a portion of the project lies within the 100-year flood plain. However, it is in an area that has been previously disturbed and all of the work done within that area, will require a permit from the local floodplain administrator;
- 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 September of 2017, wherein five deficiencies were noted, which were all addressed by October 10,

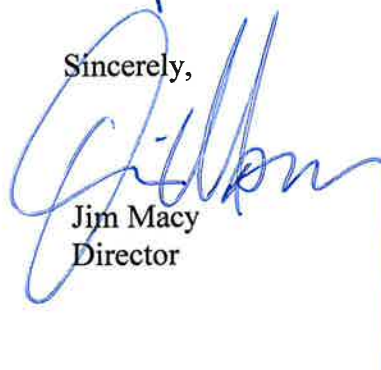
2017. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. The City will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TFM Assessment by the DHHS, to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, well 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 Steve McNulty, DHHS at 402 471-1006 or email steve.mculty@nebraska.gov, or Sarah Frey, Water Permits Division of NDEE at 402 471-4266 or email sarah.frey@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 12th day of February, 2020.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Maps

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
CITY OF BLAIR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
ENERGY

Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES – DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Steve McNulty
P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mitch Paine
P.O. Box 94676
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION

Schuyler Sampson /Carey Grell
P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68508-2554

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Steve Charleston
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Eliza Hines
9325 B South Alda Road
Wood River, NE 68883-9565

LOCAL NEWSPAPER (Public Information Only)

Washington County Pilot-Tribune & Enterprise
Enterprise Publishing
138 N. 16th Street
Blair, NE 68008

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Nick Chevance
Environmental Coordinator
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Marty Norton, P.E.
Room 308, Federal Building
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

John Moeschen, State Program Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
Nebraska State Office, Suite 1
8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chris Simmons/Kelly Beard-Tittone
11201 Renner Blvd
Mail Code: WWPDWIMB
Lenexa, KS 66219

STATE CONSERVATIONIST

Soil Conservation Service
Federal Building, Room 345
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

APPLICANT

Allen Schoemaker, Director of Public Works
Blair City Hall
218 South 16th Street
Blair, Nebraska 68008

CONSULTING ENGINEER

Burns and McDonnell
1111 North 13th Street, #300
Omaha, NE 68102

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD

8901 S. 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-6543

CITY OF BLAIR, NEBRASKA

BLAIR INTAKE
City Project No. 108269
SEPTEMBER 2019



PREPARED & SUBMITTED BY:

BURNS & MCDONNELL
 1111 NORTH 13TH STREET, SUITE 300
 OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

PROJECT ENGINEER: RICHARD E. BESANCONI, P. E. DATE



Name
 Discipline
 License No.

BURNS & MCDONNELL
 8000 WARD PARKWAY
 KANSAS CITY, MO 64114
 LICENSE NO. 000165

BLAIR INTAKE
BMcD PROJECT NO. 108269

Cover-Index

- DRAWING INDEX**
- GENERAL DRAWINGS**
- C001 COVER - INDEX
- CIVIL DRAWINGS**
- C001 GENERAL NOTES, LEGENDS, ABBREVIATIONS
- C002 SITE PLAN
- C003 GRADING PLAN
- C004 YARD PIPING
- STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS**
- S001 STRUCTURAL LEGEND
- S002 GENERAL NOTES AND STRUCTURAL STANDARD DETAILS
- S003 ARCHITECTURAL STANDARD DETAILS
- S004 STRUCTURAL STANDARD DETAILS
- S005 MASONRY STANDARD DETAILS
- S006 PILING PLAN
- S007 BASE PLAN
- S008 FOUNDATION FLOOR PLAN
- S009 COGP PLAN
- S010 MASONRY ELEVATIONS SHEET 1
- S011 MASONRY ELEVATIONS SHEET 2
- S012 SECTIONS AND DETAILS
- S013 RETAINING WALL PLAN AND SECTION
- S014 SHEET PILING ELEVATION
- S015 SHEET PILING SECTION AND DETAILS
- S016
- ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS**
- A001 ARCHITECTURAL LEGEND AND ABBREVIATIONS
- A002 INTAKE BUILDING FLOOR PLAN
- A003 INTAKE BUILDING ELEVATIONS
- A004 INTAKE BUILDING SECTION
- A005 INTAKE BUILDING ROOF PLAN
- A006 INTAKE BUILDING SCHEDULES AND COATINGS
- A007
- MECHANICAL DRAWINGS**
- M001 MECHANICAL LEGEND, ABBREVIATIONS, AND GENERAL NOTES
- M002 MECHANICAL LEGEND, SCHEDULES, AND SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS
- M003 INTAKE BUILDING FLOOR PLAN
- PROCESS DRAWINGS**
- P001 PROCESS LEGEND, ABBREVIATIONS, AND GENERAL NOTES
- P002 PROCESS FLOOR PLAN
- P003 HYDRAULIC PROFILE AND PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM
- P004 OPERATING FLOOR PLAN ELEV 10'15"
- P005 WET WELL PLAN ELEV 10'14"
- P006 WET WELL SECTION
- P007 RIVER SIDE ELEVATION
- PIPING AND INSTRUMENTATION DIAGRAM DRAWINGS**
- I001 PAID LEGEND, NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS SHEET 1
- I002 PAID LEGEND, NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS SHEET 2
- I003 PAID LEGEND, NOTES, AND ABBREVIATIONS SHEET 3
- I004 INTAKE PAID
- ELECTRICAL DRAWINGS**
- E001 ELECTRICAL LEGEND
- E002 ELECTRICAL PANEL SCHEDULE AND INSTRUMENT LIST
- E003 ONE-LINE DIAGRAM PANEL SCHEDULE AND INSTRUMENT LIST
- E004 ELECTRICAL BUILDING ELECTRICAL ROOM PLAN
- E005 INTAKE BUILDING ELECTRICAL ROOM PLAN

no.	date	by	chkd	description
A	9/26/19	BDF		ISSUED FOR OWNER REVIEW

