



## 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 Environmental Quality (NDEQ) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Highway 75 Water Main Replacements  
APPLICANT: City of Plattsmouth  
COUNTY: Cass  
POPULATION: 6,502  
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311626  
TOTAL LOAN AMOUNT: \$876,590  
FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$28,998

The City of Plattsmouth 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 NDEQ, to replace water mains at several locations along Highway 75, required due to a conflict with a Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) project for widening the highway.

According to the Priority Ranking System this project is considered to be a low priority and was included on the Planning List in the State Fiscal Year 2018 Intended Use Plan (IUP). The project can be funded in accordance with the IUP's listed bypass criteria, as the bypass date of January 1, 2018 has passed. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEQ, this project was determined to be eligible for a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 2.0% 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. With the planned change of the funding program to infrastructure replacement, Plattsmouth is eligible for forgiveness assistance capped at 15% based on the community's population; however, that forgiveness amount will only apply to the 20% portion of the project the City is required to fund. Loan only assistance will be provided on an interim basis, until NDOT provides reimbursement for their 80% cost-share of the project. The current residential water rate is \$10.89 per month, with an added consumption charge of \$1.99 for every 100 cubic feet of water used. The projected long-term annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is

\$11,904. But as noted, during the interim funding phase the City may be responsible for an additional amount of \$18,000, for a yearly total of approximately \$30,000 until reimbursement of funds is made by the NDOT. Based upon the 2,680 active service connections, residential water rates may need to be raised approximately \$1 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, no portion of the project lies within the 100-year flood plain; 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 August of 2016, wherein four deficiencies were noted, which were all addressed by January 20, 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 NDEQ 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 NDEQ. 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](mailto:steve.mculty@nebraska.gov), or Tara Sampson, Water Permits Division, NDEQ at 402 471-4266 or email [tara.sampson@nebraska.gov](mailto:tara.sampson@nebraska.gov).

Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

Sincerely,  
  
Jim Macy  
Director

Attachments:     Distribution List  
                      Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST  
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LOCAL NEWSPAPER (Public Information Only)

Plattsmouth Journal  
410 Main Street  
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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601 Riverfront Drive  
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STATE CONSERVATIONIST

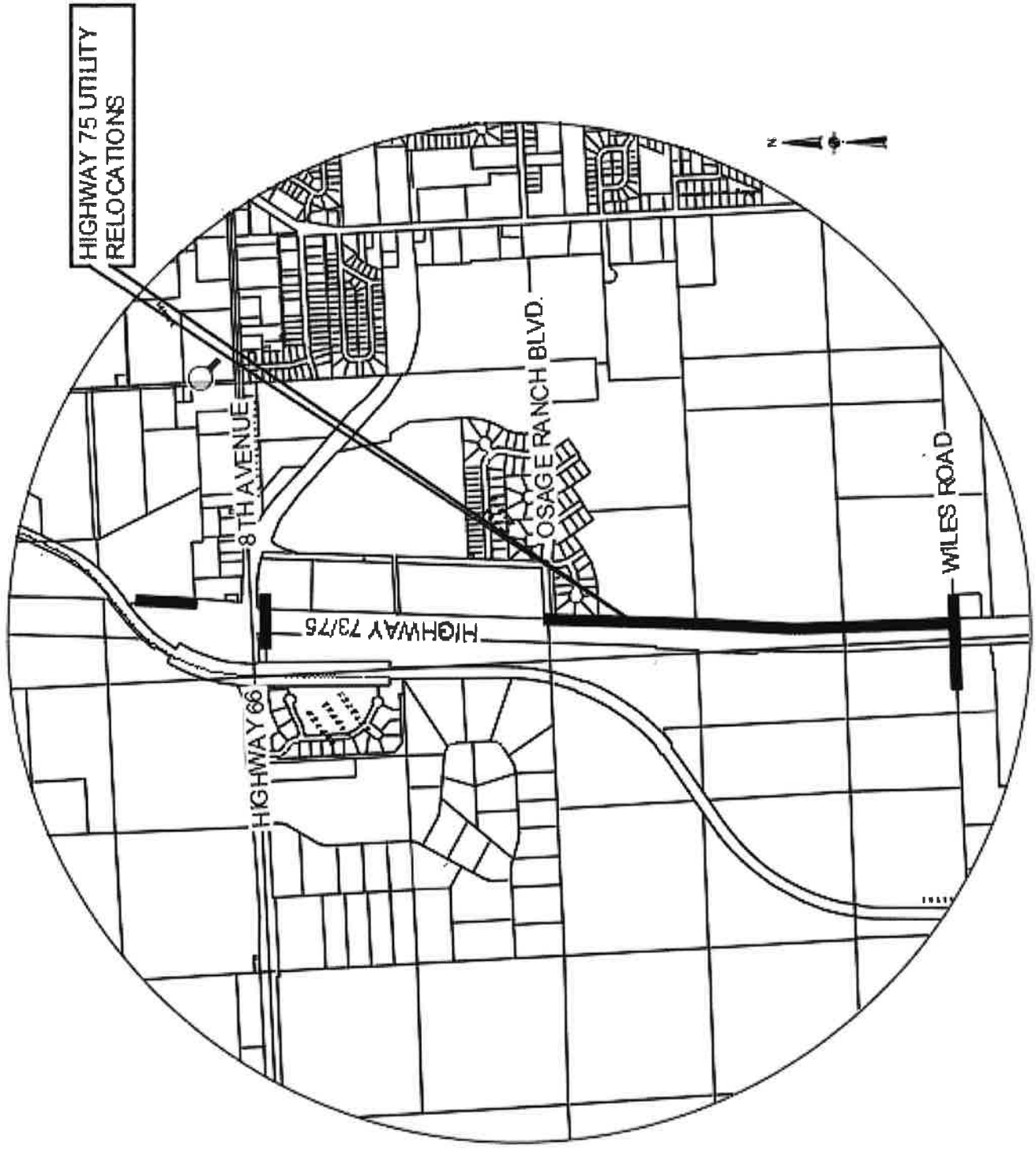
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APPLICANT

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LOCATION MAP