



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 Environmental Quality encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Upgrade

APPLICANT: Randolph, Nebraska

COUNTY: Cedar County

POPULATION: 944

CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317992

TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$400,000

ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$400,000

Randolph, Nebraska is located in Cedar County. The 2010 census population of Randolph is 944. The City of Randolph (City) is served by a collection system, which consists of approximately 30,464 feet of 6-12 inch diameter VCP and PVC sewer main, and 88 manholes. Ninety percent of the collection system consists of VCP pipe and 10 percent of pipe consists of PVC pipe. Sewage flows by gravity through the collection system that terminates at a lift station, which is located at the WWTF. The City has televised about 10 percent of the collection system and has undertaken collection system repair projects over the past 10 years in the segments that were televised. The performance of the collection system is adequate.

The existing WWTF was constructed in 1969 and consists of a comminutor, wet well/dry well lift station, oxidation ditch, final clarifier, and a sludge holding tank. The WWTF is also equipped with back-up power.

The current NPDES Permit was issued on October 1, 2012 and expired on September 30, 2017. For the reporting period of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017, the WWTF has been out of compliance with the ammonia parameter in December 2013 and January 2014.

Wastewater is pumped from the lift station to the oxidation ditch via a 4-inch force main. The oxidation ditch is in poor condition as the concrete walls are cracking along parts of the ditch. There are four propeller-type aspirating aerators in the oxidation ditch that were installed in 2008. Flow from the oxidation ditch, enters a circular final clarifier and effluent from the final clarifier discharges to Middle Logan Creek in the Elkhorn River Basin. Most of the equipment in the final clarifier was replaced recently. The existing sludge facility, which consists of a single rectangular holding tank, has about 30 days of detention time. Sludge is pumped from the holding tank into a portable trailer and land applied.

The proposed project consists of repairing the oxidation ditch walls/structure and includes sand blasting concrete, covering exposed aggregate, replacing broken/cracked sections of concrete and applying protective coat to the concrete surface. During construction, the oxidation ditch will be taken out of service. Influent that will be pumped from the lift station will be diverted to the final clarifier and will only receive primary treatment. Construction will be limited to the non-recreational time period. A muffin monster will replace the existing comminutor.

The City has applied for financial assistance for the project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program. The project is listed on the planning list of the FY 2018 Intended Use Plan is eligible for CWSRF financing. Randolph is eligible for a 10-year CWSRF loan at the current program interest rate of 1.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the outstanding principal balance will be assessed each year. On January 2, 2018, the City raised the residential sewer use fee by an additional \$5/month for a total of \$29.00/month. Revenues generated from the sewer use fees will be used to repay the CWSRF loan. The sewer rates will generate sufficient revenues to pay for the debt service due to the proposed loan and to pay for the operation and maintenance of the sewer utility.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from the 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. 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 floodplains, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- 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 be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality 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 Gautam Bhadbhade, P.E, Environmental Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEQ, who can be reached at (402) 471-4207 or email: gautam.bhadbhade@nebraska.gov

Signed this 4th day of January, 2018.

Sincerely,

Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List, Maps

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Aerial Photograph of Randolph, Nebraska



USGS Topoquad of Randolph, Nebraska and Surrounding Area

