



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: Ground Water Tank Repainting
APPLICANT: Village of Crookston
COUNTY: Crookston
POPULATION: 69
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311634
TOTAL LOAN AMOUNT: \$70,000

The Village of Crookston 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, for the repainting and minor upgrades to the ground water storage tank, and to the distribution system, where necessary.

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 2019 Intended Use Plan (IUP). The project can be funded in accordance with the IUPs listed bypass criteria, as the bypass date of January 1, 2019 has passed. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEQ, primarily based on expected operational life, this project was determined to be eligible for a 12-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 1.0% of the loan balance will be assessed. The current water rate is \$8 plus \$0.75 for every 1,000 gallons used. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$8,005. Typically based upon the 48 active service connections, residential water rates would be raised \$13.90 per month to address the new debt service; however, from a review of the project files, the water utility may run a projected deficit, which may be supported as much as 50% by general funds. Thus all factors combined, could result in a projected monthly water rate of \$40 for all water users for 6,500 gallons use per month. In addition, monthly water bills could vary accordingly for actual monthly water use for each service connection. A final assessment of revenues and costs will be analyzed to determine the actual user charge adjustment as necessary.

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 flood mapping, the ground tank site is in an area not mapped. However, it lies on a high point with respect to the rest of the Village, to the northeast;
- 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 Village 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 2019, wherein twelve deficiencies were noted, of which one has been addressed and three will be accomplished through construction of the project. Per established regulation, the satisfactory resolution of the remaining items will be achieved through the requirements of Title 179 NAC 22. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. The Village 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.mcnulty@nebraska.gov, or John Danforth, Water Permits Division of NDEQ at 402 471-3373 or email john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 20th day of May, 2019.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
VILLAGE OF CROOKSTON

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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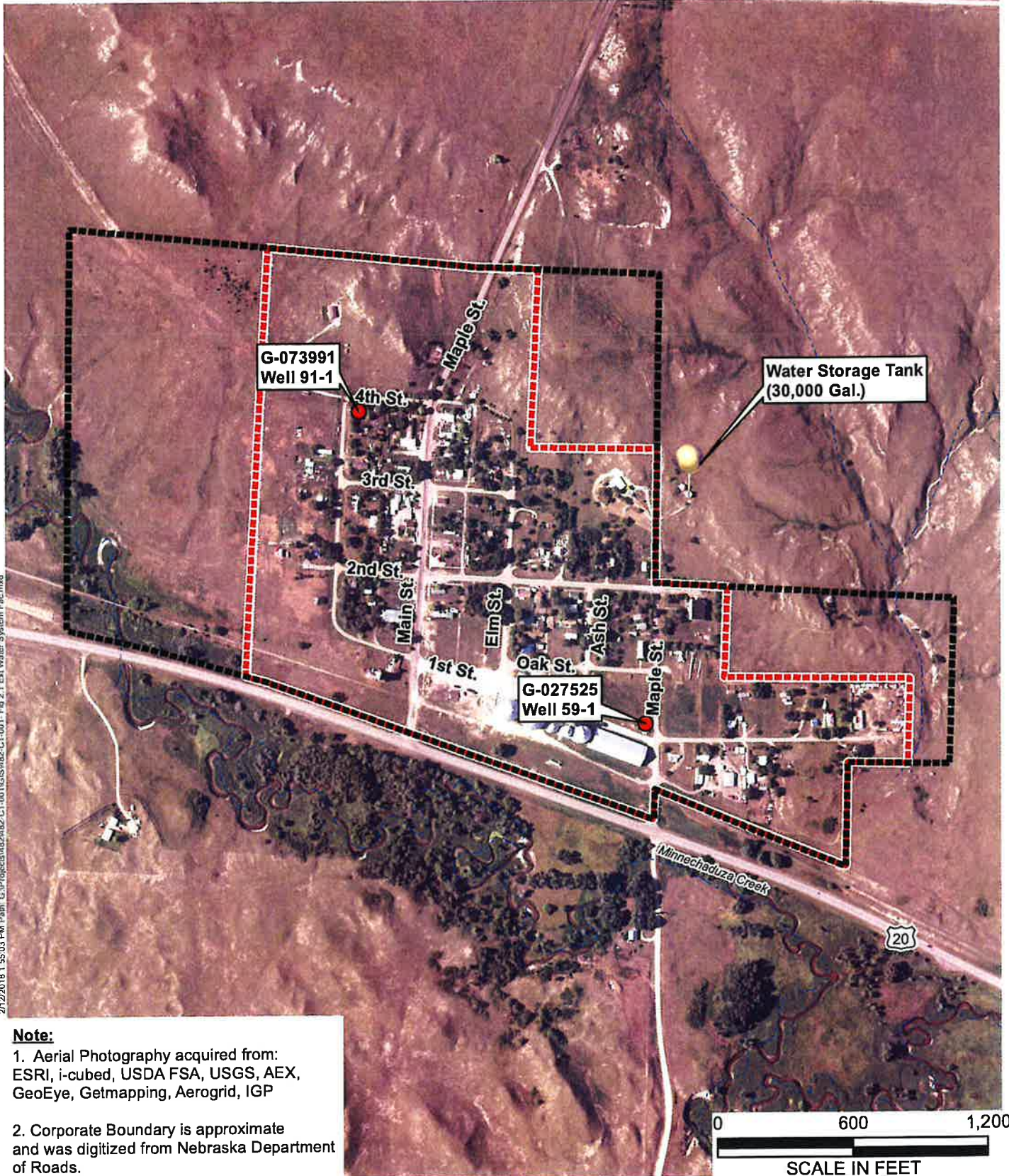
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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STATE CONSERVATIONIST
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APPLICANT
Bob Janssen, Chairman
Village of Crookston
PO Box 77
Crookston, NE 69212-0077



2/12/2018 1:55:03 PM Path: G:\Projects\482-C1-001\GIS\482-C1-001-Fig 2.1 Existing Water System Facilities.mxd

Note:

1. Aerial Photography acquired from: ESRI, i-cubed, USDA FSA, USGS, AEX, GeoEye, Getmapping, AeroGrid, IGP

2. Corporate Boundary is approximate and was digitized from Nebraska Department of Roads.



LEGEND

-  Tower
-  Public Well
-  Approx. Corporate Boundary
-  Planning Area

Prepared By:

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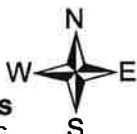


Figure 2.1
Existing Water System
Facilities (Aerial)
 Project 482-C1-001
 Cherry County, Nebraska

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