



Pete Ricketts
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Jim Macy

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DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

AMENDMENT OF A
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
DATED MARCH 15, 2013

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, 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 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: Interconnection with the City of Ord, Replacement Water Tower and Distribution System Improvements
Village of North Loup, Nebraska

DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311565

ORIGINAL PROJECT TOTAL: \$2,199,700
EXISTING DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,202,305
EXISTING LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$647,395
EXISTING CDBG GRANT: \$350,000

PROPOSED AMENDMENT PROJECT TOTAL: \$2,449,700
PROPOSED AMENDMENT DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,364,805
PROPOSED AMENDMENT DWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$734,895
EXISTING CDBG GRANT: \$350,000

This amendment is being issued to supplement a previous Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) decision of March 15, 2013, in order to proceed in funding an alternate improvement for North Loup's Public Water System. The Village of North Loup has applied for funding for the above-referenced project 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 NDEQ. When the initial clearance was issued, the community planned on constructing a water treatment plant to address an Administrative Order to return into compliance with the Arsenic drinking water standard. The Village moved forward, constructed the water tower, and distribution system improvements, but as the final

scoping of the treatment alternative was reviewed, it was determined that the alternative plan for the interconnection to the City of Ord needed to be reconsidered. As noted in the original FNSI, that alternative, while having a higher capital cost, in the long-term will provide lower operational and maintenance costs to the residents of the Village.

This project has North Loup ranked as a high priority and is included on the Planning List in the DWSRF State Fiscal Year 2016 Intended Use Plan, in case this type of re-evaluation occurred, wherein additional funding becomes necessary. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEQ, the Village remains eligible for a DWSRF loan with corresponding loan forgiveness capped at 35% of project costs. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in April of 2014, wherein no deficiencies were found. That completed survey is an ongoing step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. The Village has also undergone an Initial TFM Assessment, where several items were noted that will be addressed during or shortly after the completion of the project, through a Final TFM Assessment. This will ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and wherein those assessment(s) will be uploaded to the project file. Lastly, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The interconnection alternative was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. The majority of the responses were positive in that the project was cleared of any concerns, or showed nothing that would impact the project, or offered no objections, or was just subject to routine permit requirements. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission raised a concern whether the project would negatively impact the activity of whooping cranes during their migration periods. Should construction occur during those periods, a daily survey will be conducted within a ½ mile of the planned water main installation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service raised a concern regarding historic depletions to the Platte River; however, only State DWSRF funds will be disbursed on this critical public health project and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission did not raise any similar concerns. With the Village having installed water meters in a prior project phase, and with increased water rates, it is probable that a 30 to 40% reduction from past water consumption will be made by North Loup, as part of the DWSRF funded activities.

The Village is eligible for a 30-year loan at an interest rate of 2 percent on 65% of the estimated project costs (i.e., 35% will be forgiven). In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from North Loup's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. With the proposed amendment, the projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$79,777. North Loup's prior water rate for a typical residential connection is \$10 per month, with a minor consumptive use charge. Based on 231 active service connections, monthly household rates will need to be raised to approximately \$50 per month for the projected debt repayment and costs associated with purchasing water.

The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the Village return into compliance with the Arsenic drinking water standard. No significant environmental impacts have been identified that would result from the proposed action. All necessary permits for construction will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (i.e., Local Floodplain, Section 404, Stormwater, etc.), if necessary. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

This amended action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the Environmental Record Report, the Water System Evaluation and other supporting data that are on file with NDEQ, all are available for public review upon request. The NDEQ will not take any administrative action on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date shown below. Persons having a comment on this determination are encouraged to submit directly to Steve McNulty at (402) 471-1006 or email steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov of DHHS, or John Danforth at (402) 471-3373 or email john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov of NDEQ.

Signed this 19 day of October, 2015.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Map

FNSI DISTRIBUTION LIST
NORTH LOUP, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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
Craig Wacker/Carey Grell
P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68508-2554

STATE OFFICE OF POLICY RESEARCH
Policy Advisor
Rm. 1319, State Capitol
P.O. Box 94601
Lincoln, NE 68509-4601

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Heather Voorman
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Jeff Runge
203 West Second Street
Grand Island, NE 68801

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Nick Chevance
Environmental Coordinator
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Ken Shaw
Room 308, Federal Building
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

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

STATE CONSERVATIONIST
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Federal Building, Room 345
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

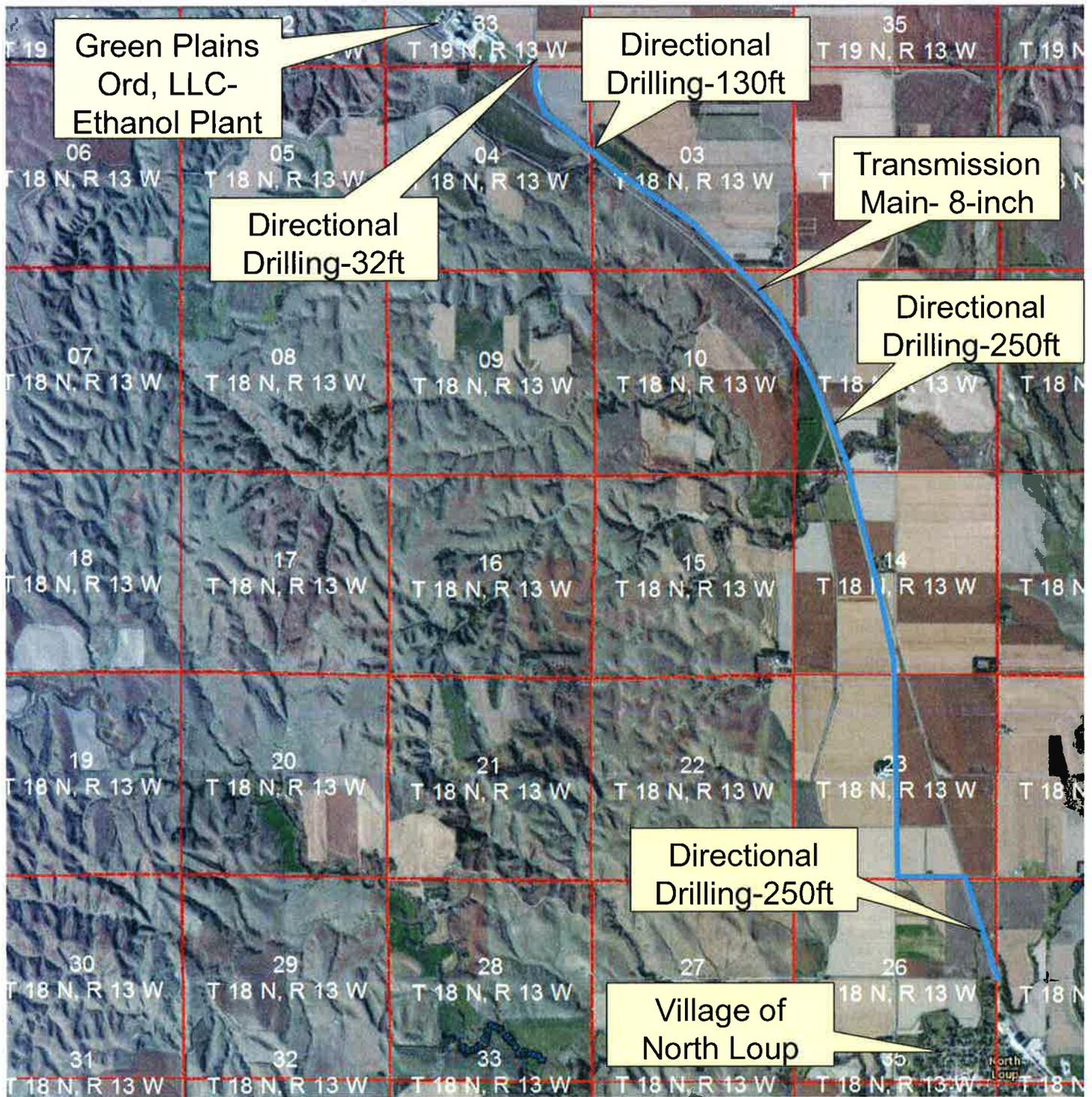
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
John Moeschen
State Program Manager
US Army corps of Engineers
Nebraska State Office, Suite 1
8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

APPLICANT:
Carrie Hansen, Clerk
Village of North Loup
PO Box 280
North Loup, NE 68859-0280

CONSULTING ENGINEER:
Chris Miller, P.E.
Miller and Associates
1111 Central Avenue
Kearney, NE 68847

LOCAL NEWSPAPER
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)
The Greeley Citizen
PO Box 268
Greeley, NE 68842-0268

LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT
LOWER LOUP NRD
PO Box 210
Ord, NE 68862-0210

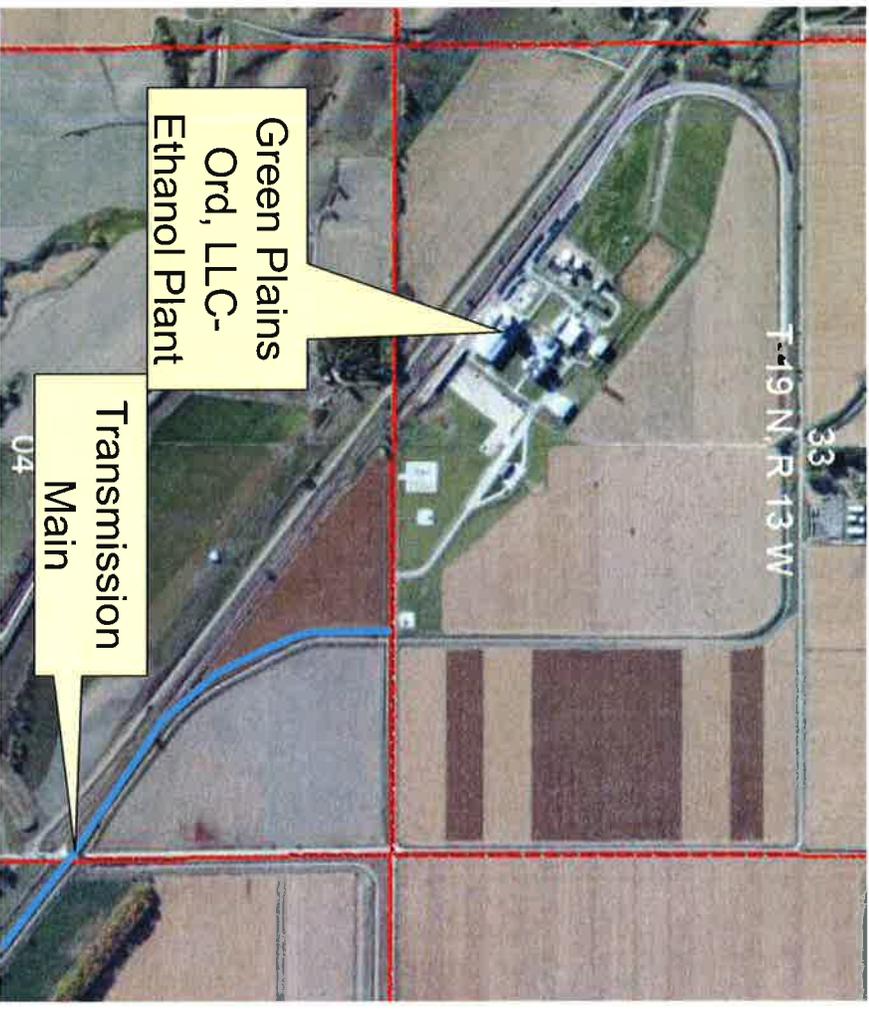
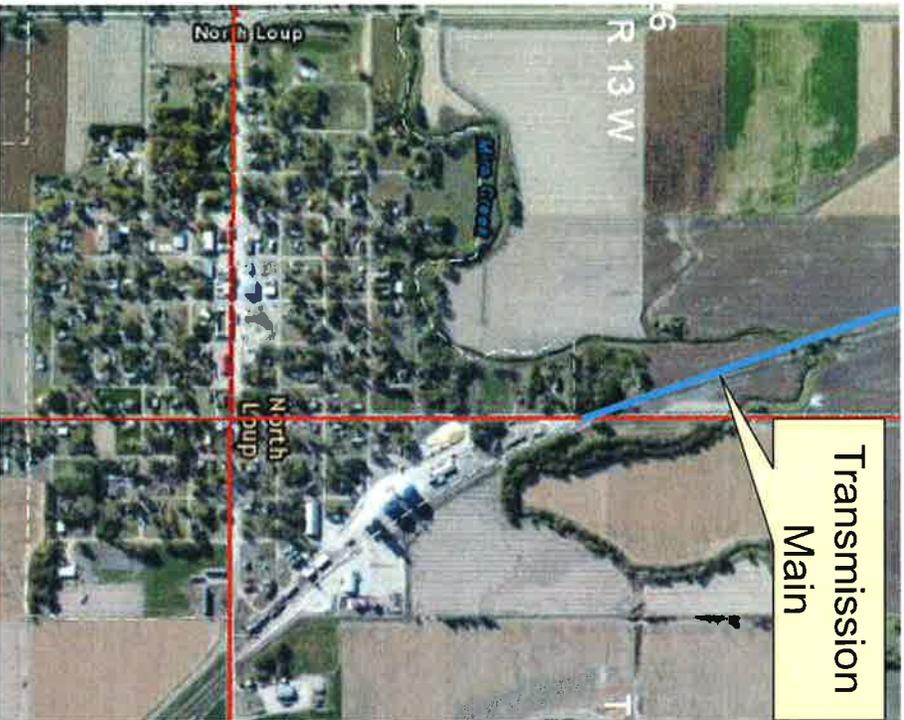


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North Loup Transmission Main
 Valley County, Nebraska



Project 144-C1-005



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North



North Loup Transmission Main

Valley County, Nebraska

Project 144-C1-005