



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: Lagoon Rehabilitation
APPLICANT: DeWeese, Nebraska
COUNTY: Clay County
POPULATION: 67
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317991
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$200,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$200,000
Principal Forgiveness: \$100,000

DeWeese, Nebraska is located in Clay County. The 2010 census population of DeWeese is 67. The Village of DeWeese is served by a collection system, which consists of 6-inch VCP, 8-inch PVC sewer mains, 17 manholes and 7 clean-outs. Sewage flows by gravity across Liberty Creek through an inverted siphon to a splitter box located between the two existing lagoon cells. The east cell designated as Cell No 1 has a surface area of 0.9 acres and the west cell designated as Cell No. 2 has a surface area of 0.34 acres. The collection system and the 2-cell lagoon system were constructed in 1979.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) issued to the Village, a Notice of Violation (NOV) on December 9, 2011 for discharging raw sewage to Liberty Creek. On January 3, 2017, NDEQ issued another NOV for noncompliance with Title 123 – Rules and Regulations for the Design, Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Works. The lagoons are in a state of

disrepair. The east cell has been allowed to go dry for a number of years and erosion has taken place at the transfer pipe around the west cell. The seepage rate in the east cell is excessive. Due to build-up of solids in the west cell, the seepage rate in the cell is undetermined. The west cell is organically overloaded and the contents in the cell have turned anaerobic. The fence around the lagoons has to be replaced.

The proposed project consists of removing solids from the lagoons, and reconstructing the lagoons to meet current standards of Title 123. Land application equipment will be used to land apply effluent when needed. Televising the collection system and cleaning the sewers is also proposed.

The project will result in the repair and upgrade of the existing lagoons which are 38 years old and have surpassed their design life. The project will provide reliable wastewater treatment and will therefore have a positive impact on the environment.

The Village has applied for financial assistance to build the project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program. The project is listed on the planning list of the FY2018 Intended Use Plan and is eligible for CWSRF financing. DeWeese is eligible for a 20-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 would be assessed each year. Revenues generated from the current sewer use fees will be used to repay the CWSRF loan. DeWeese's median household income is \$28,393, and has an AWIN score of 15, which qualifies DeWeese for 50 percent CWSRF loan forgiveness capped at \$100,000. Forgiveness funds are dependent on availability at the time of loan closing.

The current sewer use fee is a flat rate of \$17.16 per month/user. Sewer use fees will be dedicated to service the CWSRF loan. The impact to pay the debt service due to the CWSRF loan is estimated to be \$11.33/month/user which will result in a flat sewer rate of \$28.49/month/user.

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;

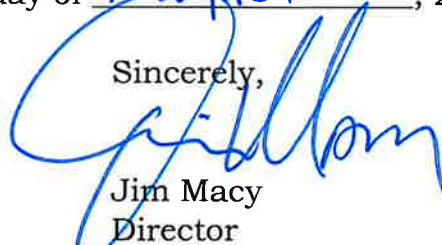
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, 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 9th day of August, 2017.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Maps

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(Public Information only, not for Public Notice)



Image Source: Google Earth 2016

FIGURE
4-3



Preliminary Engineering Report
Lagoon Treatment System Map - Option 2a/b
DeWeese, Nebraska

PROJECT NO.:	008-W2-001
DRAWN BY:	CAD
DATE:	June 2016