



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 Environment and Energy (NDEE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Temporary Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Well Repairs and Distribution System Improvements
APPLICANT: City of Peru
COUNTY: Nemaha
POPULATION: 758 (Est.)
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311640
TOTAL LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,490,000

The City of Peru 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 NDEE, to install a temporary WTP and for costs incurred to repair a water supply well. This project is needed as the existing WTP and well was inundated with water during a March 2019 federally declared flood disaster, mainly as a result of a levee failure along the Missouri River. In addition, funding will be provided for distribution system improvements needed to connect the repaired well to the temporary WTP. The project includes all related work, land, testing, and engineering fees. It is anticipated that the Federal sources of emergency grant assistance will reimburse the City for a majority of project costs, which this loan intends to primarily finance on an interim basis.

According to the State Fiscal Year 2020 Intended Use Plan (IUP), this project is considered a high priority. The project can be funded in accordance with the IUP's listed emergency criteria. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEE, this project was determined to be eligible for a 40-year loan at an interest rate and administrative fee of 0% per the criteria noted in the IUP. The DWSRF will only provide non-federal SRF dollars for this immediate assistance. The City's current base residential water rate is \$13.50 per month for the first 3,000 gallons, with an added consumption charge of \$4.50 for every 1,000 gallons of water used. The estimated long-term

annual DWSRF Debt Service from this project (including 10% coverage) is \$46,200. But that will probably not be the debt impact for this project, as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will likely provide a grant award for reimbursement to the City. Should that not occur, based upon the 242 active service connections, residential water rates may need to be raised no more than \$16 per month to address the new debt service. Regardless, a final assessment of any potential rate increases would be made by the City after the completion of the project and pending disaster grant awards. While awaiting the anticipated FEMA award, the annual debt service impact will only be \$4,400, or possibly just a \$1 per month rate increase.

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;
- Although from a review of the available mapping, a portion of the project lies within the 100-year flood plain, it consisted of repair work to existing infrastructure; 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 March of 2017, wherein several deficiencies were noted that were satisfactorily addressed by the system that month, which 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 NDEE 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 NDEE. 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 Tara Sampson, Water Permits Division, NDEE at 402 471-4266 or email tara.sampson@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 30th day of July, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Macy".

Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
CITY OF PERU

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
ENERGY

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

Schuyler Sampson/Carey Grell
P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68508-2554

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Steve Charleston
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Eliza Hines
9325 B South Alda Road
Wood River, NE 68883-9565

LOCAL NEWSPAPER (Public Information Only)

The Nemaha County Herald
PO Box 250
Auburn, NE 68305

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Nick Chevance
Environmental Coordinator
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Marty Norton, P.E.
Room 308, Federal Building
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

STATE CONSERVATIONIST

Soil Conservation Service
Federal Building, Room 345
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

APPLICANT

Darrin Reeves, Mayor
City of Peru
PO Box 369
Peru, NE 68421-0369

CONSULTING ENGINEER

Zach Schultz, P.E.
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.
11717 Burt Street, Suite 210
Omaha, NE 68154-1510

Figure 1-1: Proposed Treatment System Location

