



**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

**DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**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 Environment and Energy encourages public input in this decision-making process.

**PROJECT NAME:** Well Field and New Wells with Transmission Main, Distribution System Improvements  
City of Syracuse, Nebraska

**DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:** D311644

**TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT:** \$8,757,529

**PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT:** \$7,006,023

**PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT:** \$1,751,506

The City of Syracuse 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 and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE). This project has Syracuse ranked as a high priority and is included on the Funding List in the DWSRF State Fiscal Year 2020 Intended Use Plan. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEE, the City was determined to be eligible for DWSRF loan assistance with corresponding loan forgiveness capped at 20% of project costs.

Syracuse is located in central Otoe County of southeast Nebraska, situated at the intersection of Nebraska Highways 2 and 50. The community has a population of 1,942 according to the 2010 census, which has increased steadily over the past 50 years. Syracuse has been issued a permit to operate a public water system (PWS) under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and Nebraska Administrative Code Title 179, Public Water Systems.

The PWS consists of two municipal wells located nine miles south of the City, one elevated water storage tower (500,000 gallons) and a centralized distribution system. In November 2011, a Water System Study was completed by the City's Engineer followed by a Well Field Master Plan in April 2018. Due to nitrate levels trending upward in the two wells, limited backup power for the

wells, and reliability/limited flow rate issues related to the 12-inch transmission main from the wells to the City, the 2011 Water System Study prioritized location of an additional water source, repair of the existing transmission main, and construction of an additional water transmission main from the well field to the City. Following acquisition of a section of land for well field development, a test well program, and hydrogeologic investigation, the 2018 Well Field Master Plan recommended two additional wells completed in a deeper groundwater zone with low nitrate concentrations, backup generator at one well, a redundant 16-inch transmission main, and distribution system improvements downstream from the transmission main connection to improve delivery to the water tower.

In addition to the water system study and well field plan, the Engineer has also prepared an Environmental Report. The proposed project was reviewed by federal and state agencies for environmental impacts. The majority of responses indicated that the project would have no effect, was cleared of any significant concerns or issues, or was subject to typical permitting requirements (i.e., Well Registration, Construction Stormwater, etc.). The transmission main will likely be constructed within the 100-year flood plain. Construction will comply with local floodplain regulations including obtaining a development permit from the local floodplain coordinator. The Corps of Engineers reminded the City of their responsibilities in the case of fill being placed in Waters of the U.S. Transmission main construction will likely utilize directional boring to construct the main without disturbing freshwater forested/shrub wetland and riverine and other waters of the U.S. A wetland delineation of the route will be completed during preliminary design so any potential impacts to wetlands can be identified and addressed. Biological concerns identified included the western fringed orchid, river otter, and northern long-eared bat. A habitat assessment/survey will be conducted south of Syracuse prior to construction to ensure that potential impacts to the western prairie fringed orchid are avoided. Stream and river crossings will be directionally bored from bank to bank to avoid adverse effects to the river otter. Tree clearing activities will be avoided between June 1 – July 31, the roosting period for the northern long-eared bat.

Due to state and federal requirements related to acquisition of land for wellhead protection, two loans with 40-year terms, 1.5% interest rate, and 20% forgiveness, will be offered to the City. The first loan will be for well field land acquisition in the amount of \$989,037. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 % of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The second loan for new well construction, transmission main construction, and distribution system improvements will be in the amount of \$7,768,492. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.5 % of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from Syracuse's combined utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) for both loans is \$299,600.

Syracuse's current water rate for a typical residential connection is \$15.25 per month, with a consumptive use charge of \$2.10 per every 1,000 gallons used. A resident currently using 5,000 gallons of water would pay \$25.75 monthly. Based on 984 service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised by approximately \$25.37 per month for the projected debt repayment for both loans resulting in a monthly user rate of roughly \$51.00. Following construction, the City will make a final assessment of revenues and cost to determine what rate adjustments are necessary.

A public hearing was held on August 14, 2019 by the City Council on the proposed project noted in the Well Field Plan and Environmental Report, with 32 days advanced posted notice. There were no comments received from City residents in attendance and no other input was received from the public.

The proposed project is determined by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health to help the City maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The infrastructure investment in a new wells is in line with the stated goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy. 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 (e.g., NDEE, etc.). Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

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 October of 2018, wherein deficiencies were noted in relation to the Emergency Plan of Operations and cross-connection control plan. The deficiencies noted in the sanitary survey have been resolved. That 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.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the Environmental Report, the Water Study, Well Field Master Plan and other supporting data that are on file with NDEE. The latter are available for public review upon request and the Environmental Report is attached. The NDEE will not take any administrative action for at least 30 calendar days from the date shown below. Persons having a comment on this determination are encouraged to submit directly to Cyril Martinmaas at (402) 471-0513 or email [cyril.martinmaas@nebraska.gov](mailto:cyril.martinmaas@nebraska.gov) of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, or John Danforth at (402) 471-3373 or email [john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov) of the Water Permits Division of NDEE.

Signed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy  
Director

Attachments:            Environmental Report  
                                 Distribution List  
                                 Map

FNSI DISTRIBUTION LIST  
SYRACUSE, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY  
Office of Public Affairs  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -  
REGULATION AND LICENSURE  
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  
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 South Alda Road  
Wood River, NE 68883

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

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
Marty Norton  
Room 308, Federal Building  
100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508

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

STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Federal Building, Room 152  
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 154<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

APPLICANT:  
Thomas Ortiz, Mayor  
City of Syracuse  
PO Box F, 495 Midland Street  
Syracuse, NE 68466-0137

CONSULTING ENGINEER:  
Dane Simonsen, P.E.  
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.  
2700 Fletcher Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68504-1113

LOCAL NEWSPAPER  
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)  
Syracuse Journal Democrat  
823 Central Avenue  
Nebraska City, NE 68410

NEMAHA NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT  
Robert Hilske, Manager  
62161 Highway 136  
Tecumseh, NE 68450-8043

**Well Field, New Wells, Transmission Main and Distribution System Maps**



# PROPOSED 2017 TEST WELL ALTERNATIVES

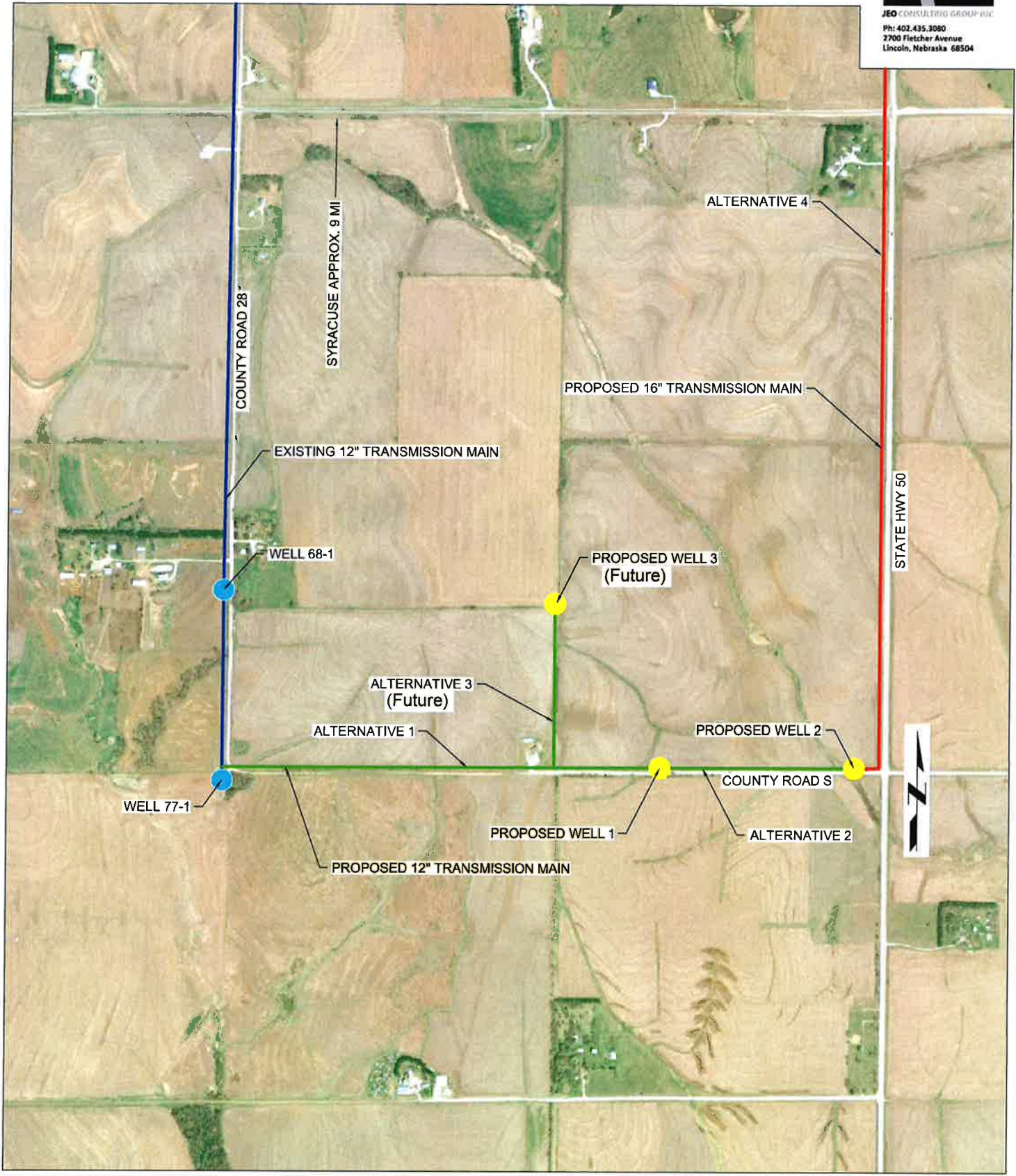
PROJECT:  
SYRACUSE 2017 TEST WELLS

PROJECT NO.  
161913.00  
FILE NAME  
ALTERNATIVES.DWG  
SHEET  
ALT 4

DATE  
12/14/17  
DRAWN BY  
PG  
REVISION



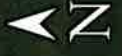
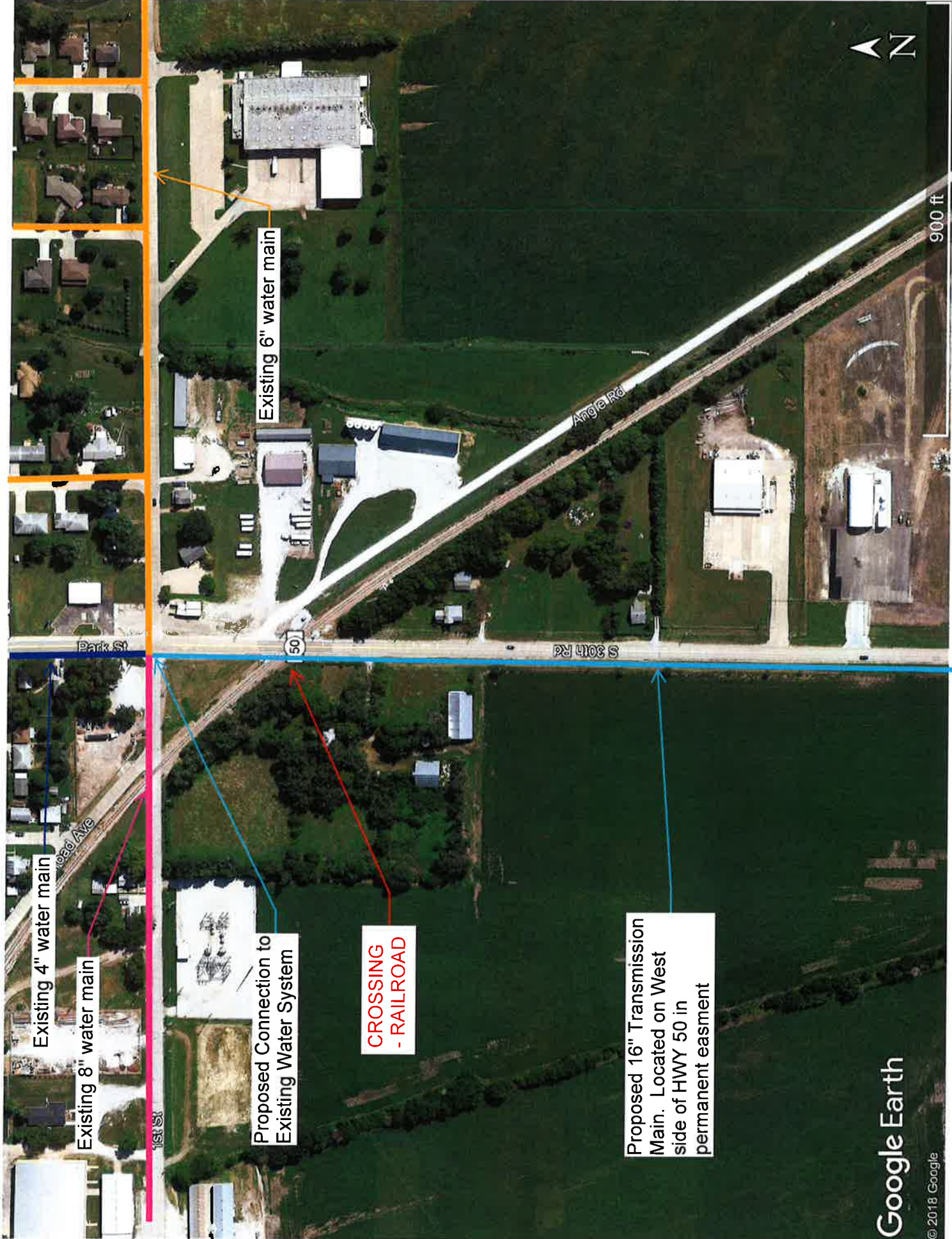
JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC.  
Ph: 402.435.3080  
2700 Fletcher Avenue  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504











900 ft

Existing 6" water main

Angie Rd

Park St

50

S 30th Rd

Existing 4" water main

Existing 8" water main

Proposed Connection to Existing Water System

CROSSING - RAILROAD

Proposed 16" Transmission Main. Located on West side of HWY 50 in permanent easment



# Untitled Map

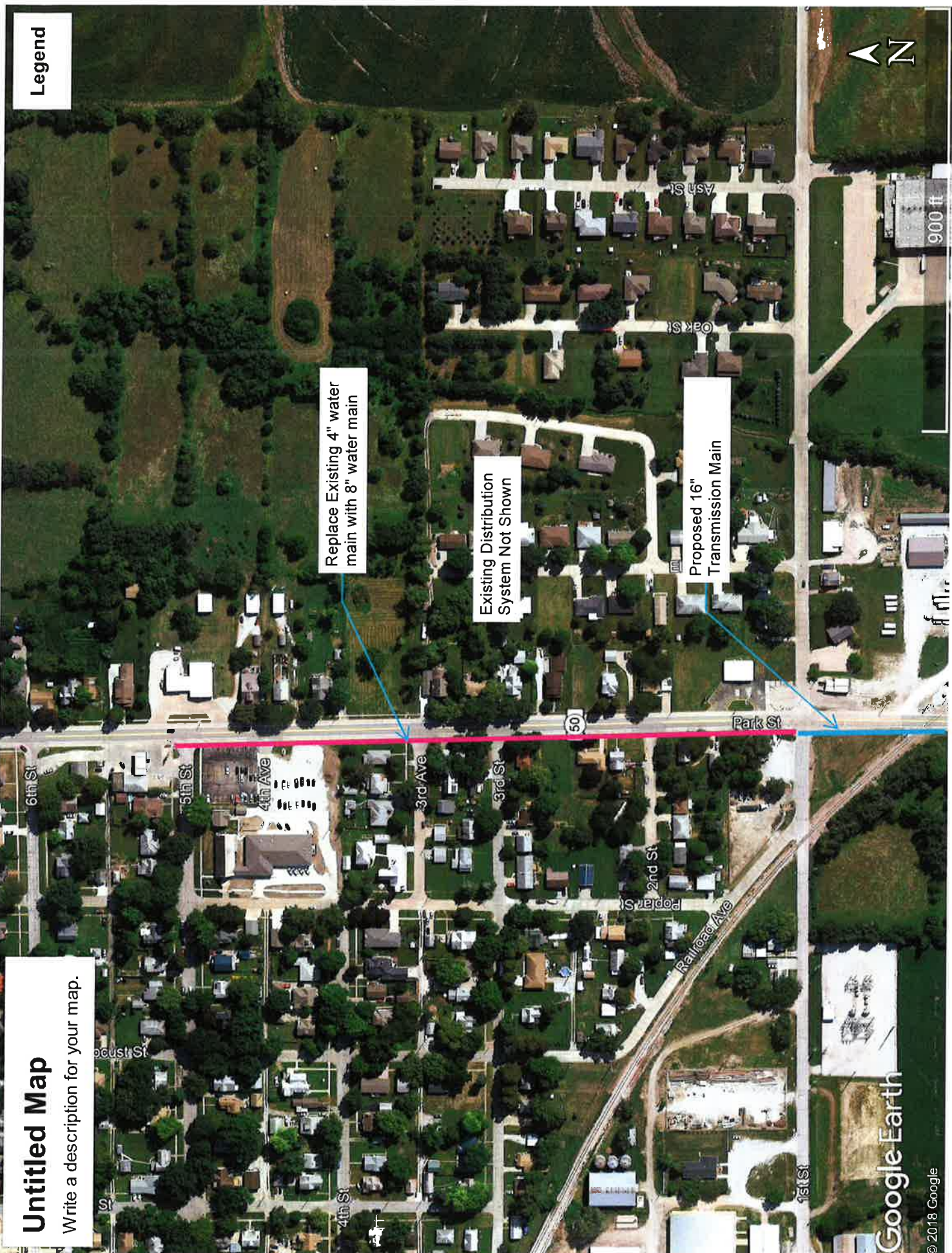
Write a description for your map.

## Legend

Replace Existing 4" water main with 8" water main

Existing Distribution System Not Shown

Proposed 16" Transmission Main



## **Environmental Report**

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

Wells and Transmission Main

City of Syracuse, Nebraska

JEO Project No. 161913.00

*Dan*

03/25/2019

Name

Date



JEO Consulting Group, Inc.  
308 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308) 381-7428; Fax (308) 381-7428



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## ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

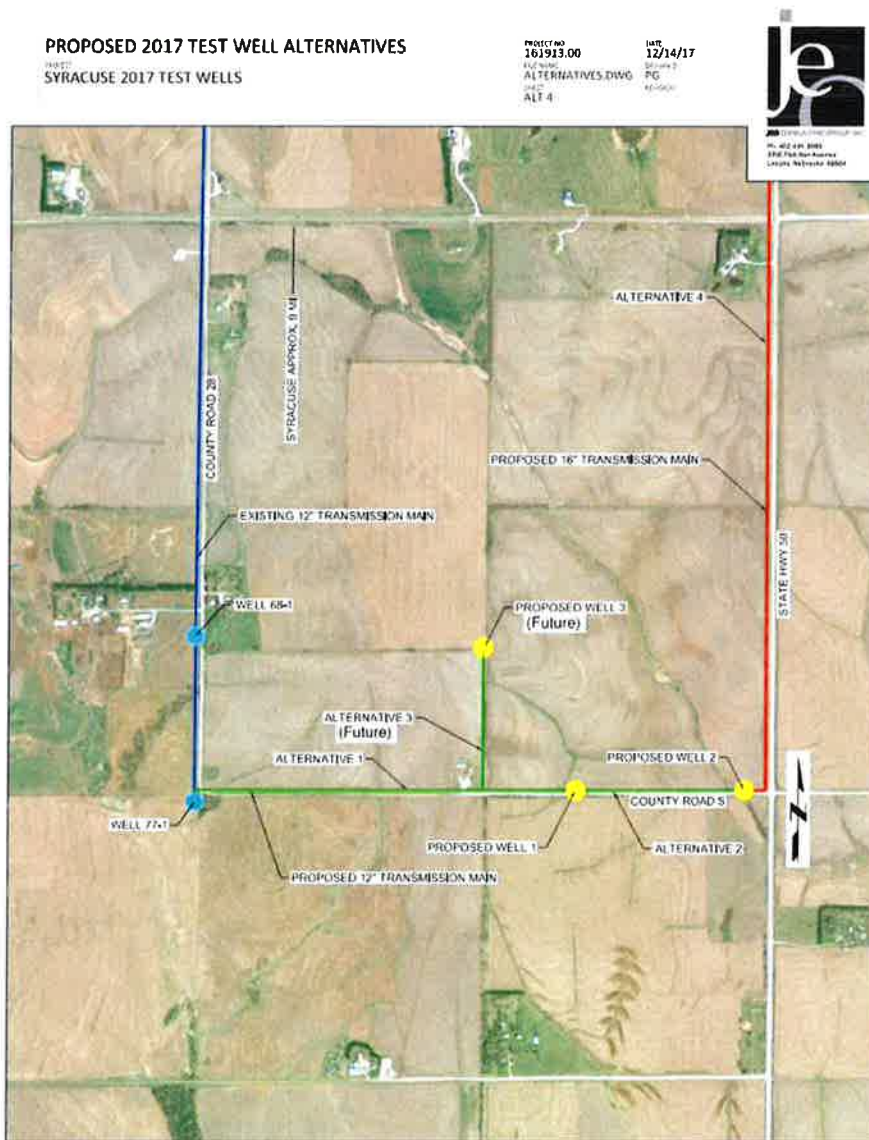
### 1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED OF PROJECT

#### 1.1 Project Description

The project consists of the following components:

1. Construction of two new wells and associated connective piping approximately ½ mile east of the City of Syracuse's existing well field. The proposed wells will draw water from a specific formation that is low in nitrates. The proposed wells are intended to replace one of the City's existing wells and provide capacity as the City grows.

**Figure 1: Proposed Well Alternative**



2. Construction of approximately 9 miles of transmission main between the City of Syracuse and new wells. The existing 12" transmission main is the only method of conveying water from the well field to Syracuse and is currently limiting the capacity of the City's well. The new 16" transmission main is necessary to increase the capacity of the water supply and provide redundancy.

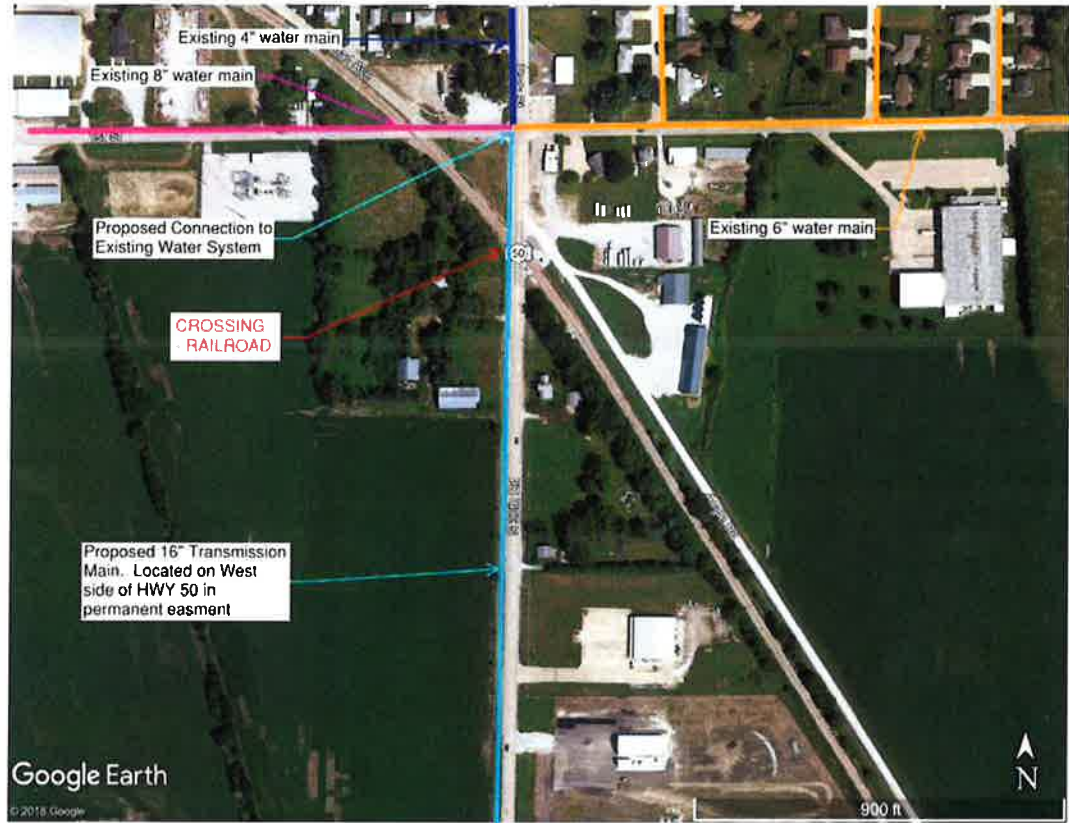
**Figure 2: Proposed Transmission Alternative**



The proposed transmission main will connect to the existing water main at 1<sup>st</sup> and Park Streets. This alternative assumes the 16" main will be cased under the railroad tracks at the south end of town.

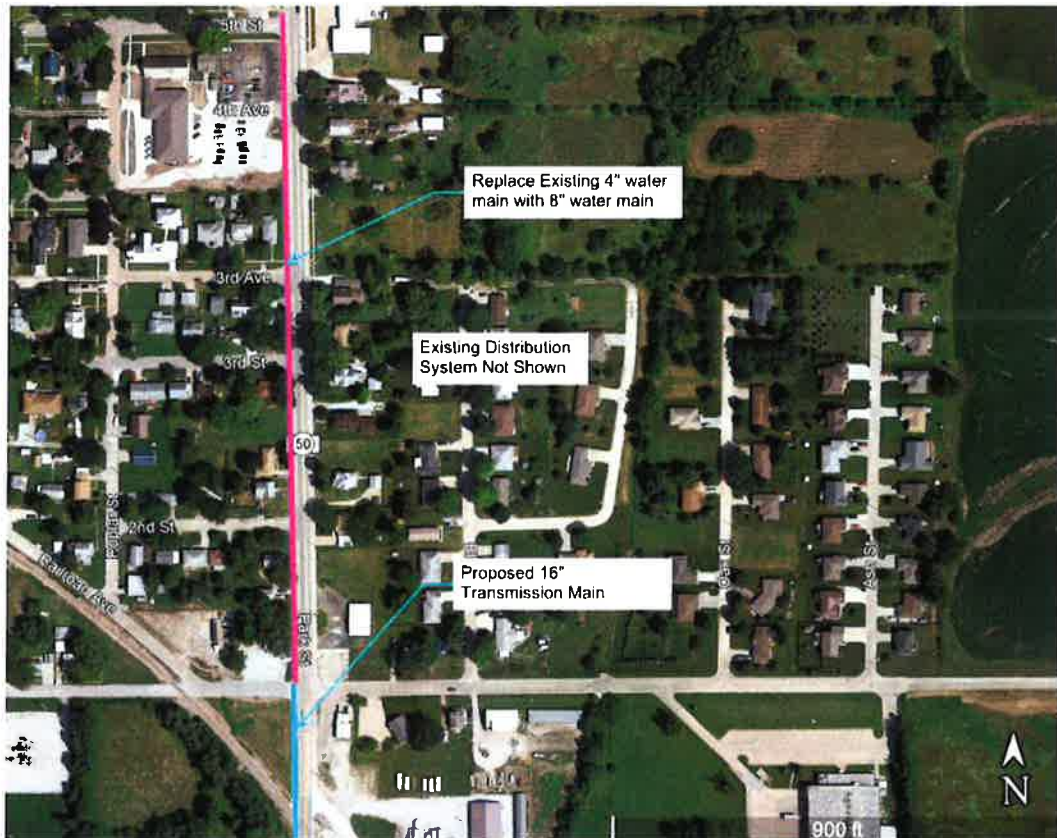


**Figure 3: Connection to Existing Water System**



3. Improvements to the existing distribution system to improve flow from the transmission line to the water tower. This will include replacing the existing 4" water main on Park Street from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street with 8" water main. Without these improvements, wide variations in pressure would be experienced and main breaks due to high flows could result.

**Figure 4: Improvements to Distribution System**



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is a mission area that includes three federal agencies – Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Utilities Service. The agencies have in excess of 50 programs that provide financial assistance and a variety of technical and educational assistance to eligible rural and tribal populations, eligible communities, individuals, cooperatives, and other entities with a goal of improving the quality of life, sustainability, infrastructure, economic opportunity, development, and security in rural America. Financial assistance can include direct loans, guaranteed loans, and grants in order to accomplish program objectives.

As a condition of receiving the USDA's WEP direct loan and grant, the City of Syracuse must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act in 7 CFR 1970. The project fits within a class of actions listed in §1970.54(a) (4) and (5) "Categorical Exclusion" for Utility infrastructure and water supply wells with an environmental report." By reviewing and analyzing the project's potential effects on the local environment, this document is intended to provide the public with the information necessary to satisfy this requirement.

### **1.2 Alternatives**

The connection to another water system alternative was determined to be financially unfeasible due to high construction costs.

### **1.3 Purpose and Need**

#### Purpose

The purpose of this project is to provide the City of Syracuse with a reliable source of drinking water that meets needs of the community and meets the Safe Water Drinking Act requirements.

#### Need

The City's wells have had elevated nitrate levels, not over the MCL, and are a continual cause for concern for the City. A test well program and hydrogeological investigation concluded that nitrates are present in an upper aquifer and could be reduced if the upper aquifer was sealed off from the lower aquifer and well screen. The 2018 master plan also concluded the existing two wells and transmission main lack redundancy and capacity to meet future demands. Therefore, this project includes adding two more drinking water wells (Alt 1 & 2) to the system and a redundant 16" transmission main (Alt 4) approximately 9 miles in length. The combination of these alternatives will help provide additional capacity to the water system and improve the overall reliability of the water system for the City of Syracuse. Maps of the alternatives can be found in the Appendix.

## **2.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

### **2.1 Land Use/Important Farmland/Formally Classified Lands**

#### Affected Environment

At this time, it is intended that the proposed well and associated transmission main will be built in the County right-of-way and/or private easements near ROW. The City has purchased SE 1/4 S21 T8 R11 to have some control of actions at the ground surface. The City has determined to abandon the well and irrigation system on this 1/4. This will result in more water in the aquifer, i.e. quantity. This will also provide control on the amount of fertilizer and agricultural chemicals applied that could leach into the groundwater, i.e. quality.

The mains located in the City will be in the City/ State ROW. A response from the Natural Resource Conservation service (NRCS) indicated that no portion of the proposed new well site or the possible stretch of transmission main are designated prime farm ground.

#### Environmental Consequences

NRCS determined that the project was found to be cleared of FPPA significant concerns.

#### Mitigation

No mitigation is required. The locations of all the improvements will be brought back to original conditions after the construction is completed.

### **2.2 Floodplain**

#### Affected Environment

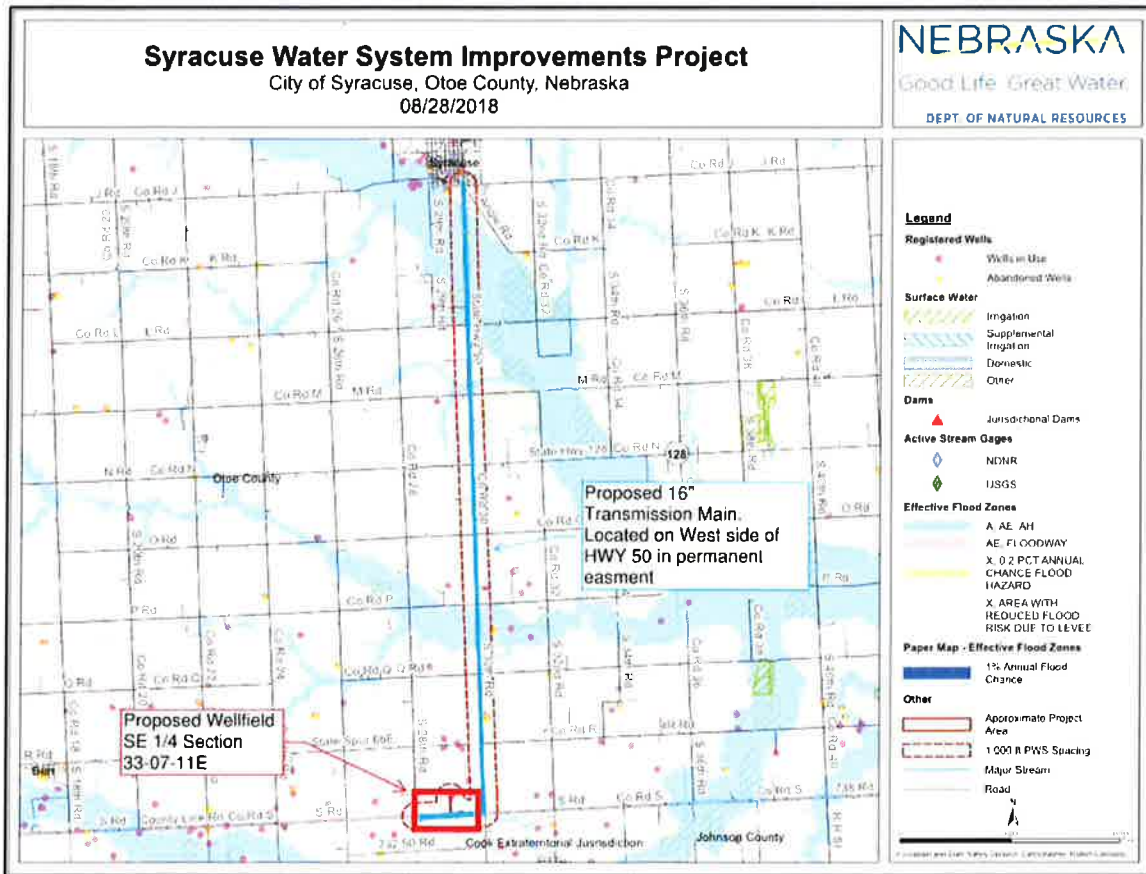
The transmission main will likely be constructed within the 100-year flood plain. The wells will be constructed above the 100-year floodplain. All developments within a regulated floodplain need to



comply with local floodplain regulations, which includes obtaining a floodplain development permit. The State of Nebraska will require that stream crossings have a valve on either side and a method to determine if the stream crossing was damaged in a flood event. Design will minimize construction of above ground structures and valves in those areas. During a flood, valves will remain accessible.

The transmission mains will be open-cut, and trenches will be put back to existing conditions and elevations. However, stream crossings, will be bored.

**Figure 3: Syracuse Area Map**



**Environmental Consequences**

There will be no effects to the floodplain from the proposed project.

**Mitigation**

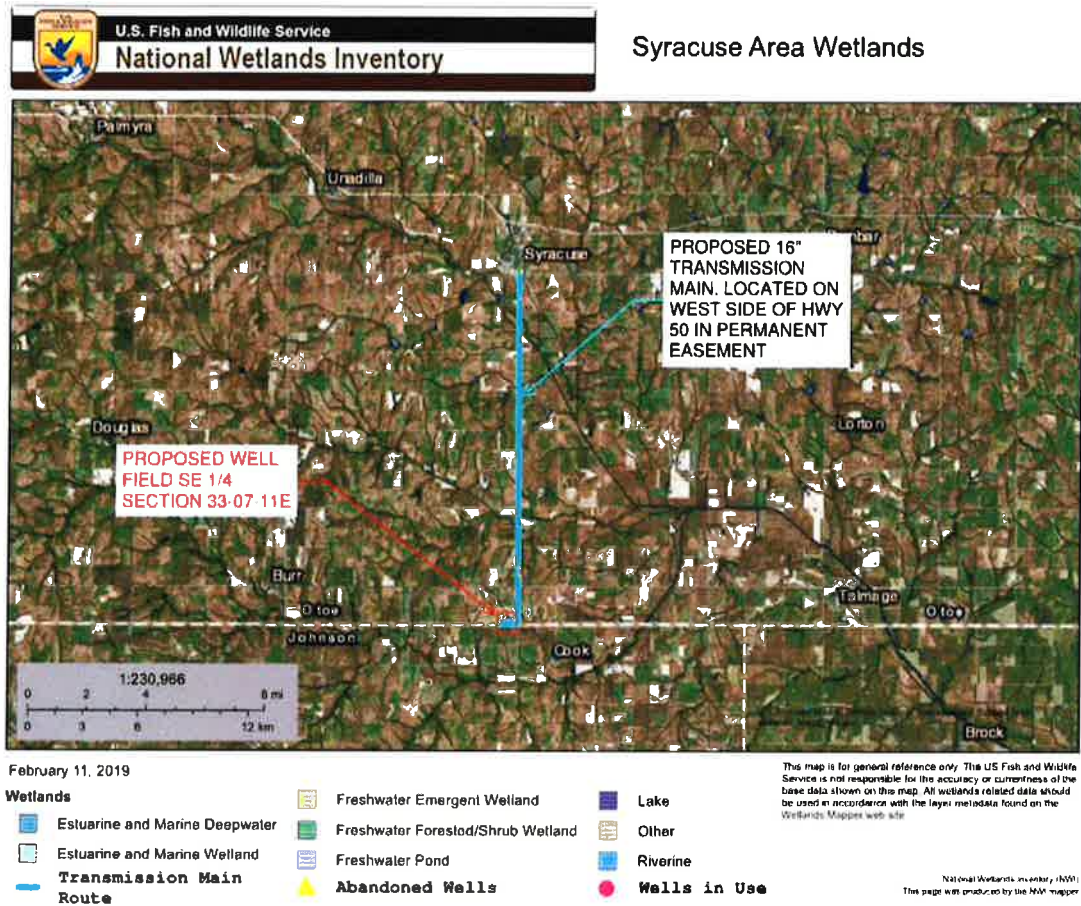
No mitigation is required.

**2.3 Wetlands**

**Affected Environment**

National Wetland Inventory maps as shown below in Figure 2 were reviewed for the proposed project area.

Figure 4: Syracuse Area Wetlands



NRCS Wetlands Mapper was reviewed and a freshwater forested/shrub wetland habitat is crossed by component 1 and several different types of wetlands are crossed by component 2. A complete set of maps can be found in the Appendix. A table showing the location of all the crossings is shown below.

Table 1: Possible Wetland Crossings

Map No.	Type of Wetland
1	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
2	Freshwater Forested/Shrub (x2), Riverine
3	Freshwater Forested/Shrub
4	Riverine
7	Freshwater Forested/Shrub
8	Freshwater Forested/Shrub, Riverine
9	Riverine, Freshwater Forested/Shrub (x2)
10	Freshwater Forested/Shrub

11	Riverine
12	Freshwater Forested/Shrub

Army Corps of Engineers reminded the City of their responsibilities in the case of fill being placed in Waters of the US. For this reason, it has been determined to bore under the freshwater forested/shrub wetland and riverine and other WOUS. This will eliminate disturbing them even temporarily. NDEQ was also contacted and they noted to review work site for wetlands and streams and avoid and minimize impacts to those aquatic resources where possible. A wetland delineation of the route will be completed as part of the project so any potential impacts to wetlands can be identified and addressed. The wetland delineation is planned to be conducted during the preliminary design and should be completed by June 30.

Environmental Consequences

There will be no effects to wetlands from the proposed project. All land along the transmission line will be put back to existing grades.

Mitigation

If wetlands mitigation is needed for this project, adjustments to the alignment and boring of the transmission main would be considered.

**2.4 Historic Properties**

Affected Environment

A review of tribes with interests in Otoe County, Nebraska was conducted using the Tribal Directory Assessment Tool. Letters were sent to nine (9) tribes to determine if any historic information for the property was listed. Only the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma responded to the letter. A table showing the nine tribes and a copy of the letters can be found in the Appendix.

Environmental Consequences

Responses from SHPO and THPO found no historic properties affected.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required for this project. If any unanticipated discoveries are made, SHPO and THPO will be contacted and work will stop until the situation is evaluated and a solution is determined.

**2.5 Biological Resources**

Affected Environment

The proposed project will be constructed within rural areas.

A review of available information and agency coordination including the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Nebraska game and parks were reviewed in order to determine if any biological resources would be affected.



This project is highly unlikely to affect biological resources. All disturbed land will be put back to pre-construction elevations and seeded. USFWS and Nebraska Games & Park Commission were contacted to see if they would concur. USFWS determined that the project will have no adverse impacts. Nebraska Games & Park Commission determined that the project could impact three state-listed threatened species.

#### Environmental Consequences

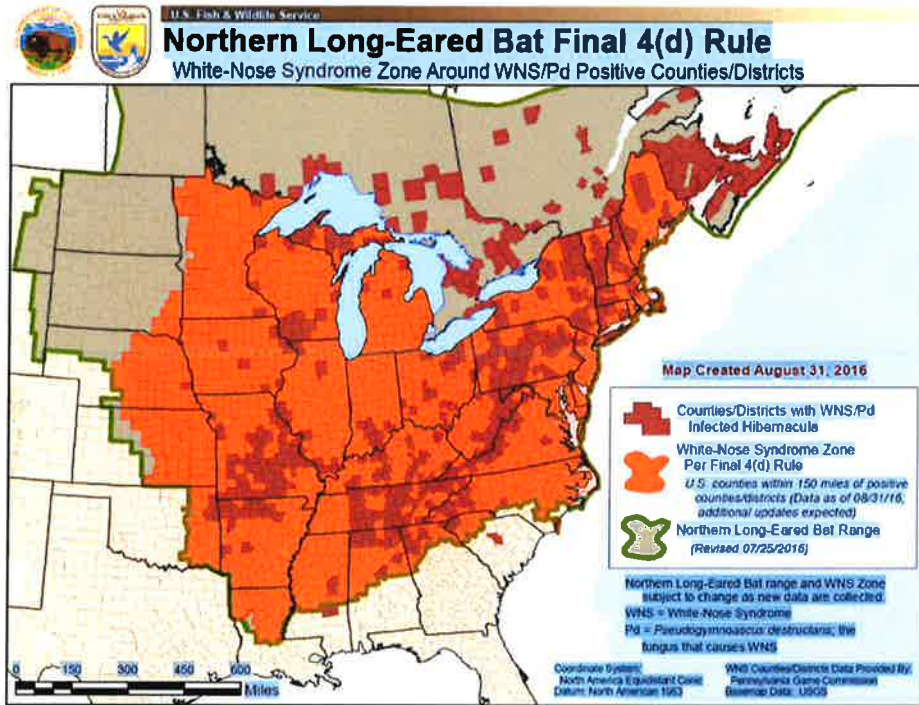
The project is located within the range of the western prairie fringed orchid, river otter, and northern long-eared bat.

The western prairie fringed orchid is a plant species that can occur in native tall or mixed-grass prairies that are associated with wet meadows. Although the plant can be a colonizer species and grow on disturbed areas, it is found in greatest abundance on high quality prairie. This plant blooms in late June to July. The Nebraska Game and Parks does have records of western prairie fringed orchid growing in Otoe County. Based on aerial photography, there looks to be an area of grassland and/or wet meadow vegetation towards the north end of the proposed 16" transmission main that extends for approximately 0.5-mile abutting the west side of Highway 50 between Syracuse and the Little Nemaha River. The information provided shows that the proposed transmission main would cross this area along the west side of Highway 50, but it is not known to what extent the construction related impacts would occur in this area. If construction of the transmission main would disturb this grassland and/or wet meadow area, then it is recommended that a habitat assessment/survey for western prairie fringed orchid be conducted prior to construction to ensure that potential impacts to western prairie fringed orchid would be avoided.

This project is within or near the modeled distribution of the state-listed threatened river otter (*Lontra canadensis*). The project will cross the floodplain and banks associated with two streams and a river. These banks can be home to River Otter and their young. As stated earlier, the streams and river will be bored from bank to bank thus eliminating the chance of having an adverse effect.

The northern long-eared bat (NLEB) typically roosts singly or in colonies, during the summer, in cavities, underneath bark, crevices, or hollows of both live and dead trees and/or snags (typically greater than or equal to 3 inches dbh). This bat seems opportunistic in selecting roosts, using tree species based on presence of cavities or crevices or presence of peeling bark. They forage for insects in upland and lowland woodlots and tree lined corridors, and over water surfaces. To avoid adverse impacts to NLEB, we recommend that any tree clearing activities be scheduled to avoid the NLEB maternity roosting timeframe of June 1 – July 31.

Figure 5 – Northern Long-Eared Bat Range



### Mitigation

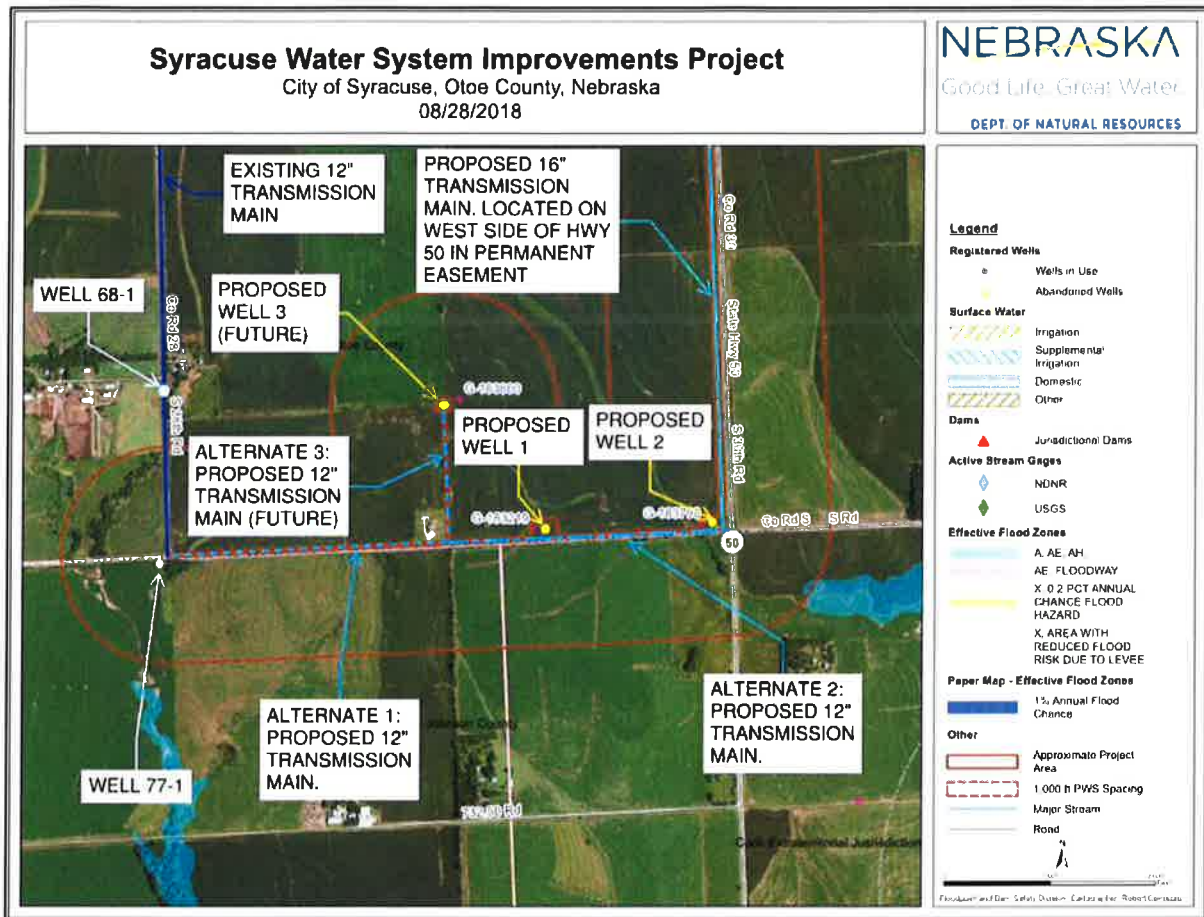
To avoid adverse impacts to the western prairie fringed orchid a habitat assessment/survey will be conducted from the SE 1/4 S21 T8N R11E & NE S28 T8N R11E south of Syracuse to the northern bank of the Little Nemaha River prior to construction to ensure that potential impacts are avoided. To avoid adverse impacts to the northern long-eared bat, tree clearing activities should not take place during the roosting period between June 1 – July 31. These mitigation measures will be placed in the specifications and the General Contractor will manage the study and limit tree removals.

## **2.6 Water Quality Issues**

### Affected Environment

According to information provided by the NeDNR, depending on the location of the work to be completed within the City of Syracuse there are up to one (1) public supply well and three (3) registered wells within the 1,000-foot spacing for the proposed project area. Special care should be taken to locate and avoid impacting these wells in any significant way. See Figure below.

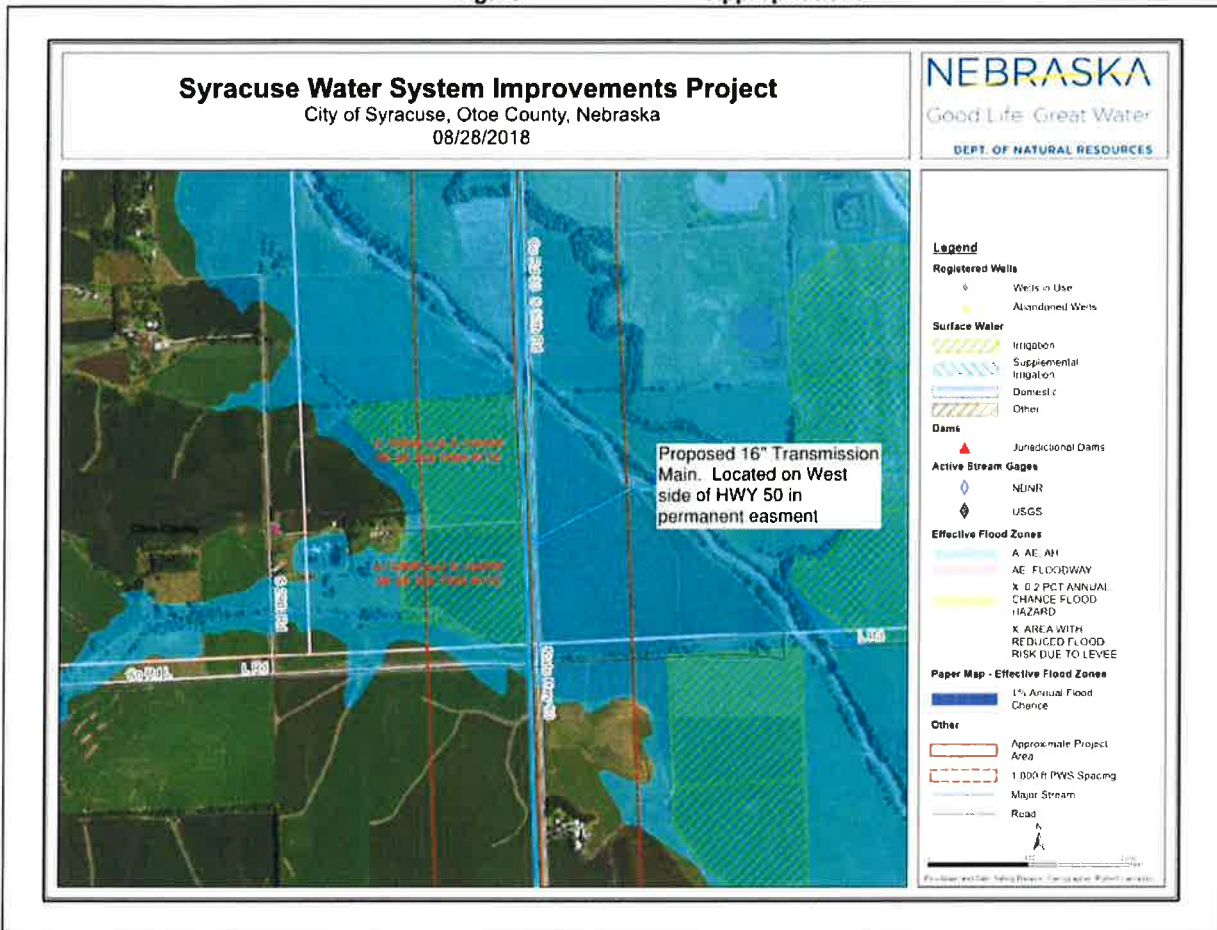
Figure 6: Registered Wells



NeDNR records indicate two (2) areas of surface water appropriations are appurtenant to the proposed project location. If the details of the surface water right are permanently modified in some way by the project, appropriate modification requests will need to be provided to NeDNR for review. See Figure below.



Figure 7: Surface Water Appropriations



NeDNR did not identify any active state or federal stream gages within the proposed project area.

### Environmental Consequences

Any impacts to irrigation piping or appurtenances will first of all be avoided by rerouting. If that is not possible, irrigation piping and equipment will be put back to functioning conditions.

### Mitigation

No mitigation requirements are required for this project.

### 2.7 Coastal Resources

There are no coastal resources in the State of Nebraska.

### 2.8 Socio-Economic / Environmental Justice Issues

From on-site inspections, there are no groups of people that would be negatively impacted by the construction of this project. The proposed project will benefit all residents of the City. The results of

the project will be a reliable water system that provides a source complying with water quality standards. USDA is completing a separate Environmental Justice review as required by their regulations.

## **2.9 Miscellaneous Issues**

### Noise and Air Pollution

There should be no adverse impacts associated with this project other than the normal dust and noise associated with construction of this type of project. The construction period and impacts would occur for approximately 12 months and the impacts are not considered significant. Nebraska Title 129 Chapter 32 air quality regulations apply to all demolition and construction activities. Most of the work is being done in rural areas, more than 1/8 mile from most residences.

### Financial

The construction of the recommended improvements will lead to an increase of the existing user water rates. However, there will be a more reliable water source and removal of a bottleneck to growth.

### Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of the Resources

The only irreversible commitment of resources resulting from this project would be human labor, construction materials used, energy resources used during construction, and energy resources used to operate the well pump, booster pumps, or treatment equipment.

After construction is completed, the right-of-ways will be returned to their original condition. Seeding and grading of these areas will be completed at the conclusion of the project to return them to original conditions.

Long term transportation will not change greatly. The operator will visit the site once per day on average as they are doing at the existing facility.

### Waste

All wastes generated or discovered on site must be properly handled, contained, and disposed as per all applicable in Nebraska Title 128 and 132

## **3.0 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION**

### Biological Resources

To avoid adverse impacts to the western prairie fringed orchid a habitat assessment/survey will be conducted from the SE 1/4 S21 T8N R11E & NE S28 T8N R11E south of Syracuse to the northern bank of the Little Nemaha River prior to construction to ensure that potential impacts are avoided. To avoid adverse impacts to the northern long-eared bat, tree clearing activities should not take place during the roosting period between June 1 – July 31. These mitigation measures will be placed in the specifications and the General Contractor will manage the study and limit tree removals.

## **4.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

Letters were sent to various state and federal agencies to comment on the potential impacts to the environment. Letters were sent to the agencies listed below seeking comment. The original letter

requested a response with 15 days. However, they were allowed the 30 days as evident from the date of the letter and the date of this report. The following responses were received and are attached in the Exhibit section of the report;

**Table 2: List of Correspondence Received**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Response Received</b>
Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency	Sharon Brandt - Staff Assistant, Fuel Division	8/16/2018
Nebraska Department of Aeronautics	Thomas Jacobson – Highway Local Liaison, Aeronautics Division	8/20/2018
USACOE	Daniel Shepard, Regulatory Project Manager	8/21/2018
Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes	Micah Looper, Research Analyst	8/21/2018
Nebraska Game and Parks	Carey Grell, Environmental Analyst Supervisor	8/22/2018
USDA NRCS	Neil Dominy – State Soil Scientist	8/23/2018
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	Robert Carnazzo - NeDNR	8/28/2018
Nemaha Natural Resources District	Chuck Wingert – Water Resources Manager	8/31/2018
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality	Tricia Scott, NDEQ	9/4/2018
NE State Historical Society	John Risetto, Preservation Archeologist	9/5/2018
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Eliza Hines, Nebraska Field Supervisor	9/6/2018

Public Involvement

The City of Syracuse has conducted regular meetings that are open to the public to allow for the involvement of the public in this project to date.



## APPENDIX

### Exhibits

Well and Transmission Alternative Maps

Syracuse Area Wetlands Maps

JEO Letter Sent to State and Federal Agencies

Response Letters from Agencies

- Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency
- Nebraska Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics
- Department of the Army
- Tribal Historic Preservation
  - Tribal Directory Assessment Information
- Nebraska Game and Parks
- USDA/NRCS
- NeDNR
  - Syracuse Water System Improvements Project Maps
- Nemaha Natural Resources District
- NDEQ
- Nebraska State History Preservation Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# PROPOSED 2017 TEST WELL ALTERNATIVES

PROJECT:  
SYRACUSE 2017 TEST WELLS

PROJECT NO.  
161913.00  
FILE NAME  
ALTERNATIVES.DWG  
SHEET  
ALT 4

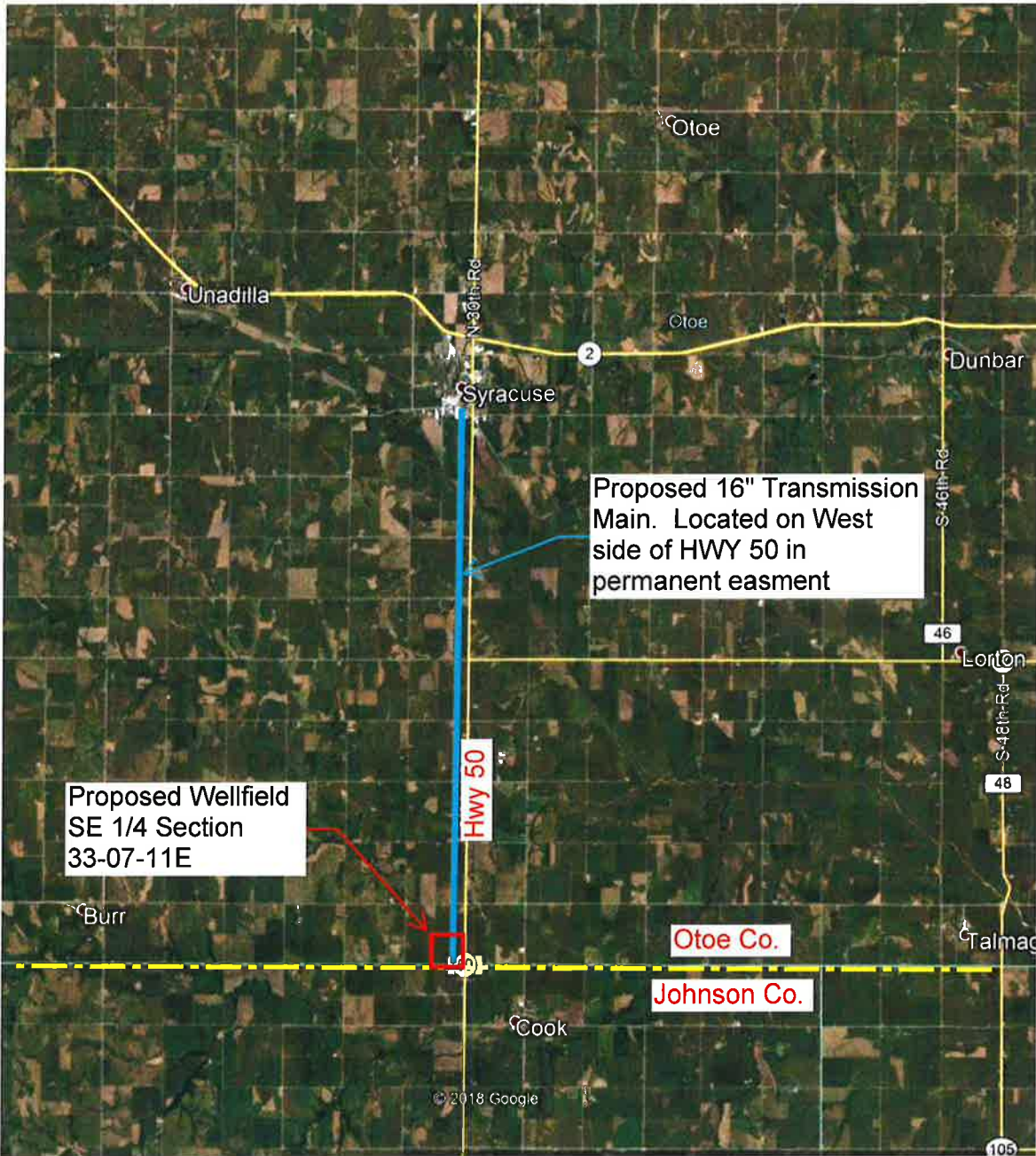
DATE  
12/14/17  
DRAWN BY  
PG  
REVISION



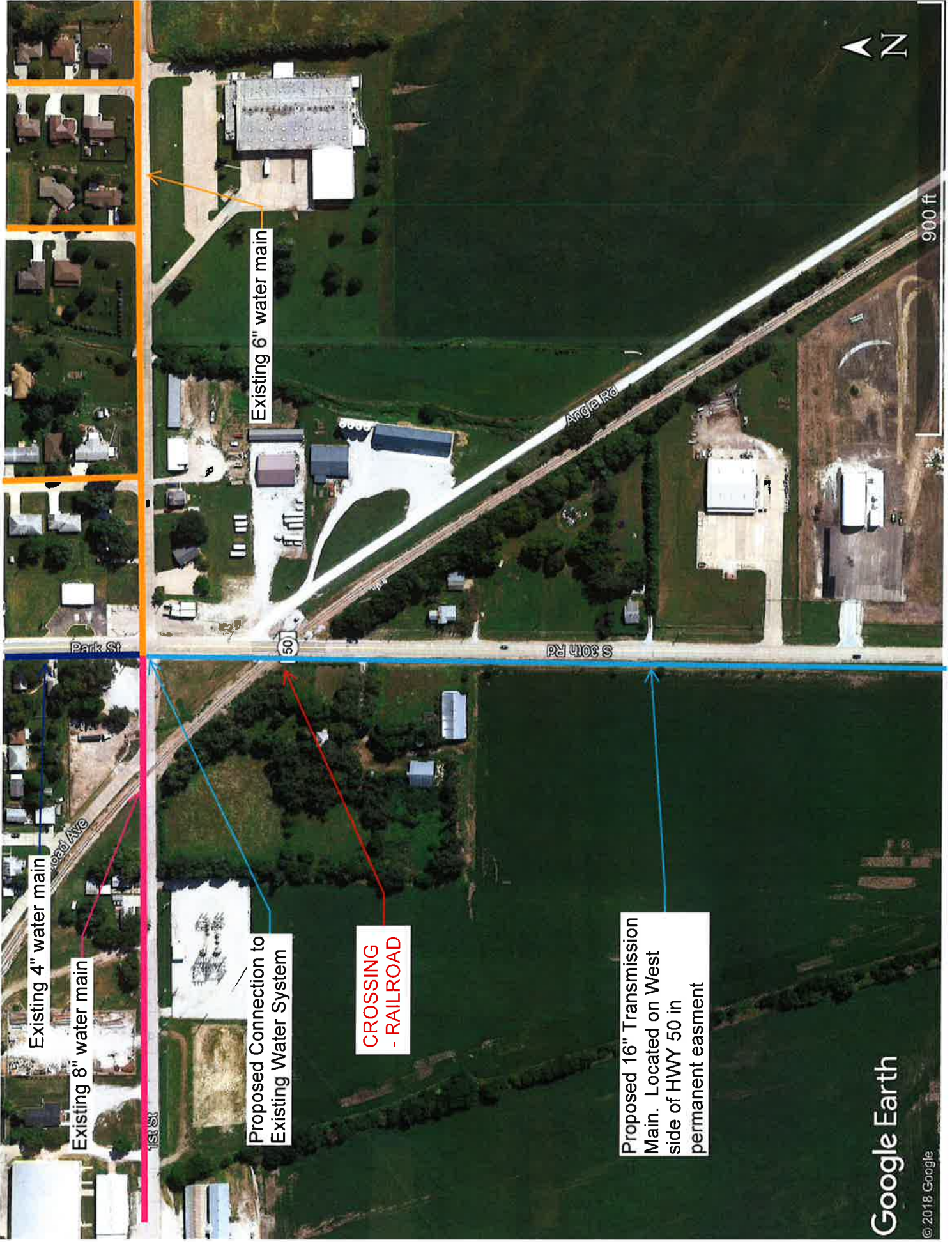
JEO CONSULTING GROUP, INC.  
Ph: 402.435.3080  
2700 Fletcher Avenue  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504











900 ft

Park St

S 30th Rd

Angie Rd

50

1st St

Existing 4" water main

Existing 8" water main

Proposed Connection to Existing Water System

CROSSING - RAILROAD

Proposed 16" Transmission Main. Located on West side of HWY 50 in permanent easment

Existing 6" water main



# Untitled Map

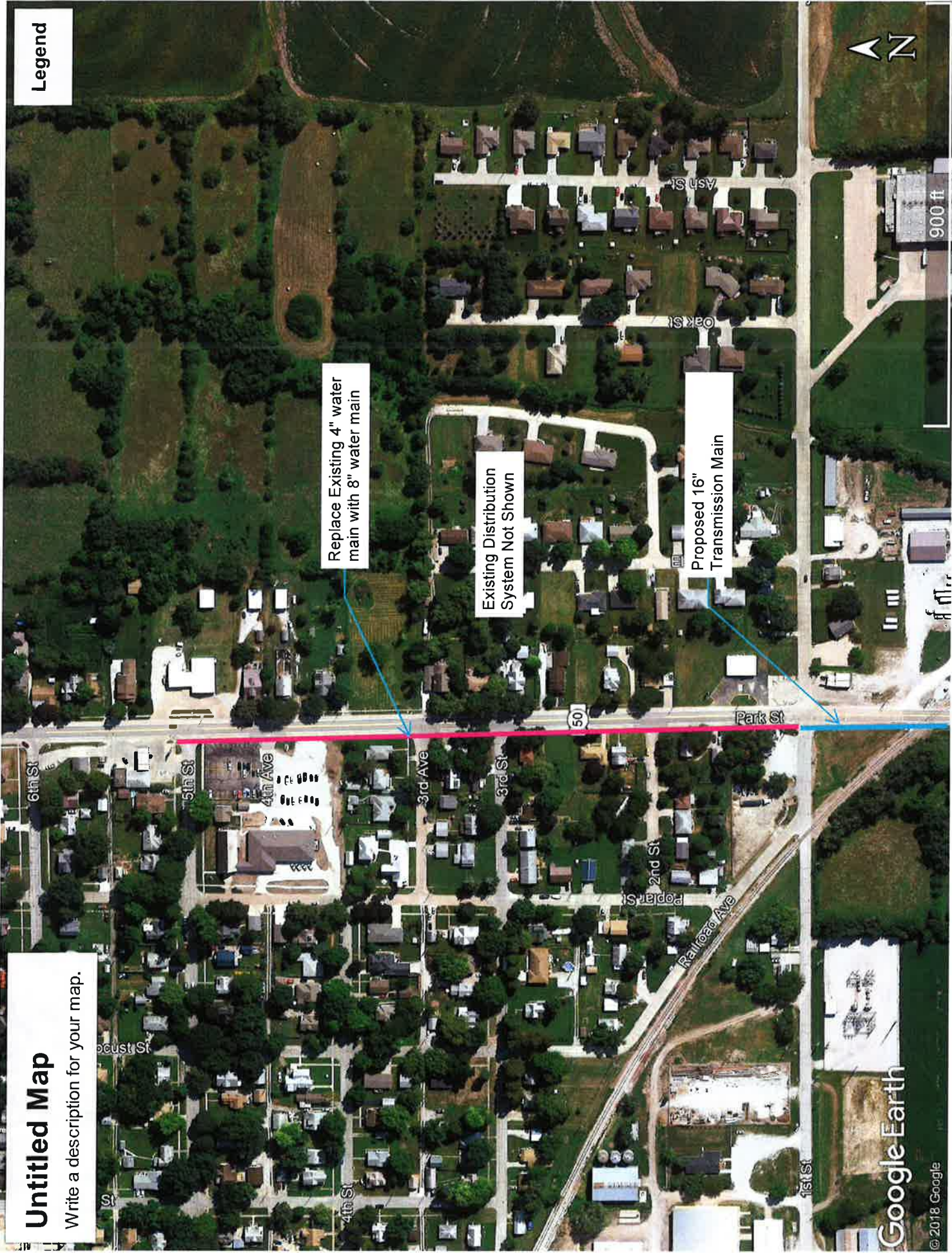
Write a description for your map.

## Legend

Replace Existing 4" water main with 8" water main

Existing Distribution System Not Shown

Proposed 16" Transmission Main



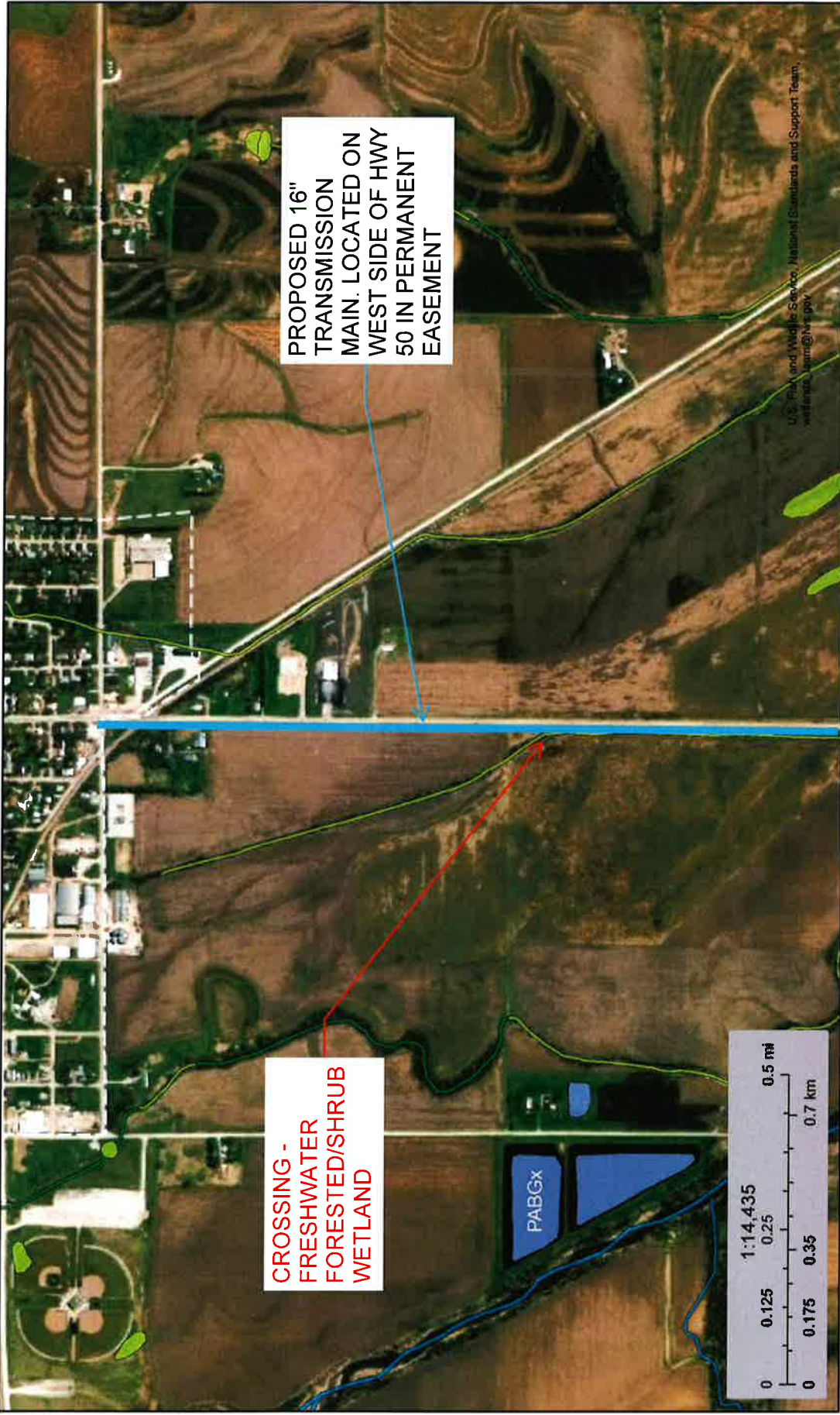




U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# National Wetlands Inventory

1



**CROSSING -  
FRESHWATER  
FORESTED/SHRUB  
WETLAND**

**PROPOSED 16"  
TRANSMISSION  
MAIN. LOCATED ON  
WEST SIDE OF HWY  
50 IN PERMANENT  
EASEMENT**



February 11, 2019

## Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Transmission Main
- Route
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Standards and Support Team, wetlands\_team@fws.gov

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)  
This page was produced by the NWI mapper

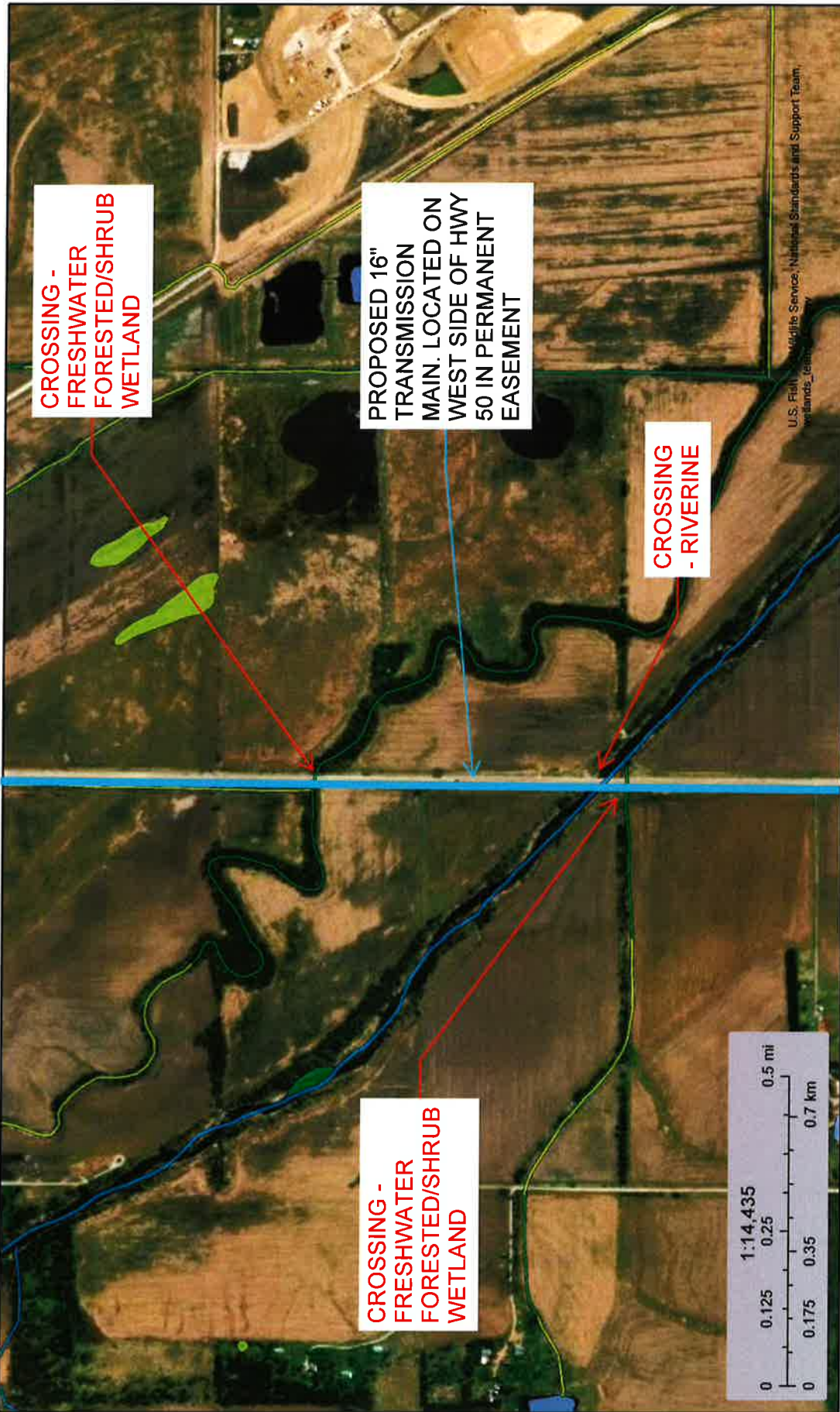




U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# National Wetlands Inventory

2



CROSSING - FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

PROPOSED 16" TRANSMISSION MAIN. LOCATED ON WEST SIDE OF HWY 50 IN PERMANENT EASEMENT

CROSSING - RIVERINE

CROSSING - FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND



February 11, 2019

### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Transmission Main
- Route
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# National Wetlands Inventory

3



February 11, 2019

### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

- Transmission Main
- Route

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February 11, 2019

**Wetlands**

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Transmission Main
- Route
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# National Wetlands Inventory

5



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Standards and Support Team  
wetlands, [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

February 11, 2019

### Wetlands

-  Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
-  Estuarine and Marine Wetland
-  Transmission Main
-  Route
-  Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  Freshwater Pond
-  Lake
-  Other
-  Riverine

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PROPOSED 16"  
TRANSMISSION  
MAIN. LOCATED ON  
WEST SIDE OF HWY  
50 IN PERMANENT  
EASEMENT

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Standards and Subsets Team,  
wetlands\_mapper@fws.gov



February 11, 2019

**Wetlands**

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Transmission Main
- Route
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# National Wetlands Inventory



February 11, 2019

### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- Transmission Main
- Route

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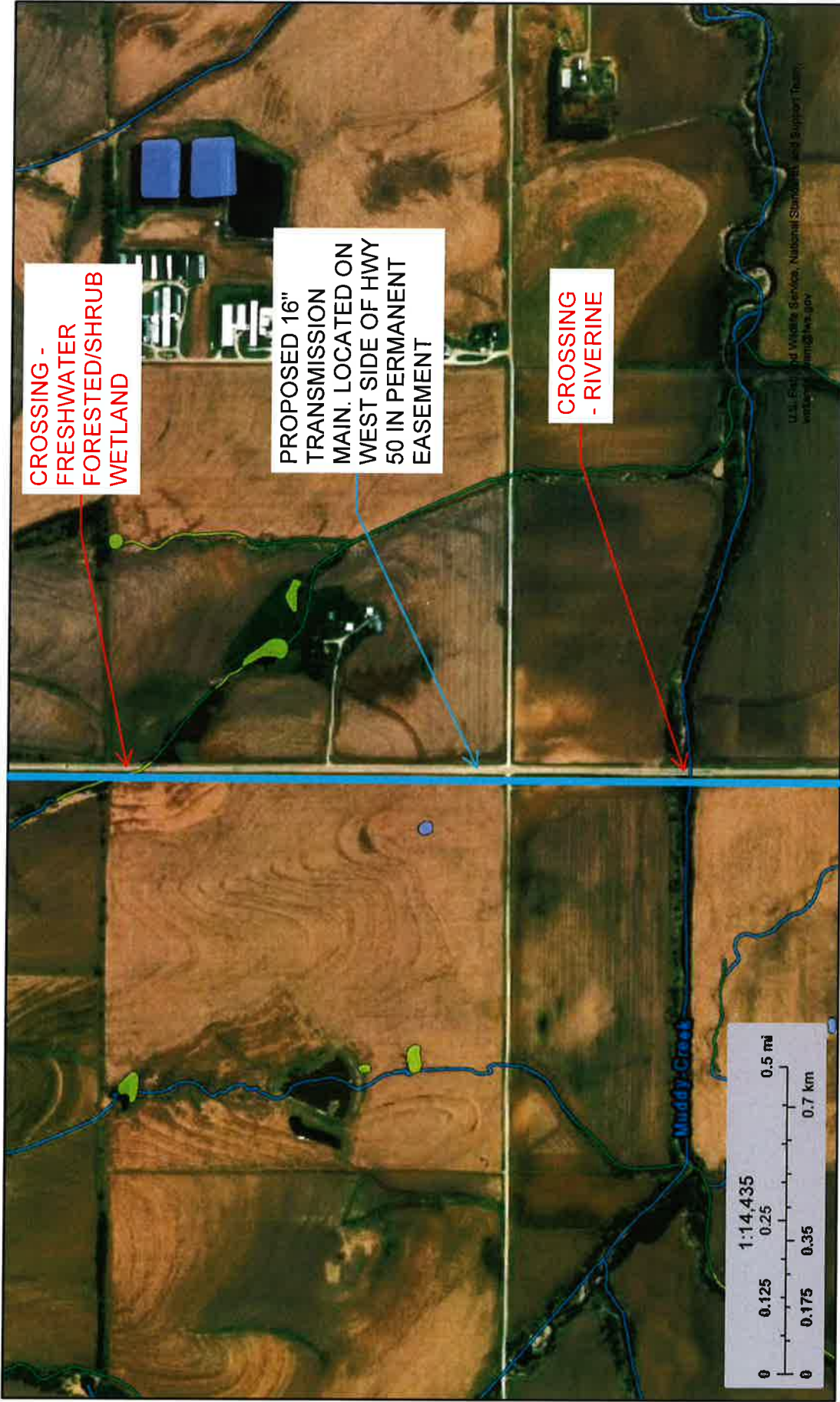




U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# National Wetlands Inventory

8



CROSSING - FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

PROPOSED 16" TRANSMISSION MAIN. LOCATED ON WEST SIDE OF HWY 50 IN PERMANENT EASEMENT

CROSSING - RIVERINE

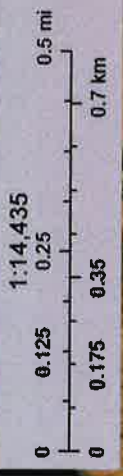
February 11, 2019

### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

- Transmission Main
- Route

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February 11, 2019

**Wetlands**

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Transmission Main**
- Route**
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

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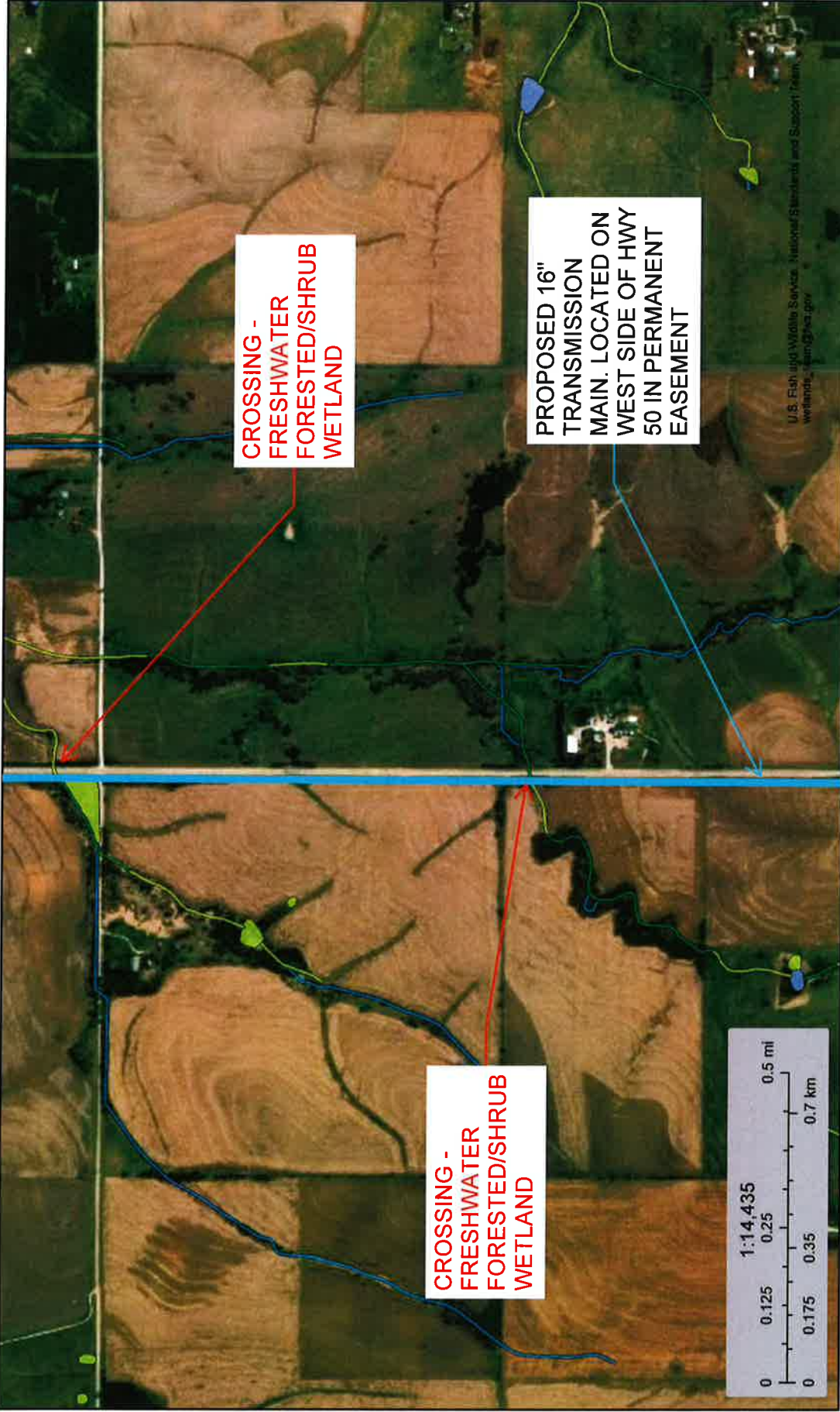




U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# National Wetlands Inventory

10



February 11, 2019

### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Transmission Main
- Route

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond

- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

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February 11, 2019

**Wetlands**

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Transmission Main**
- Route**
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

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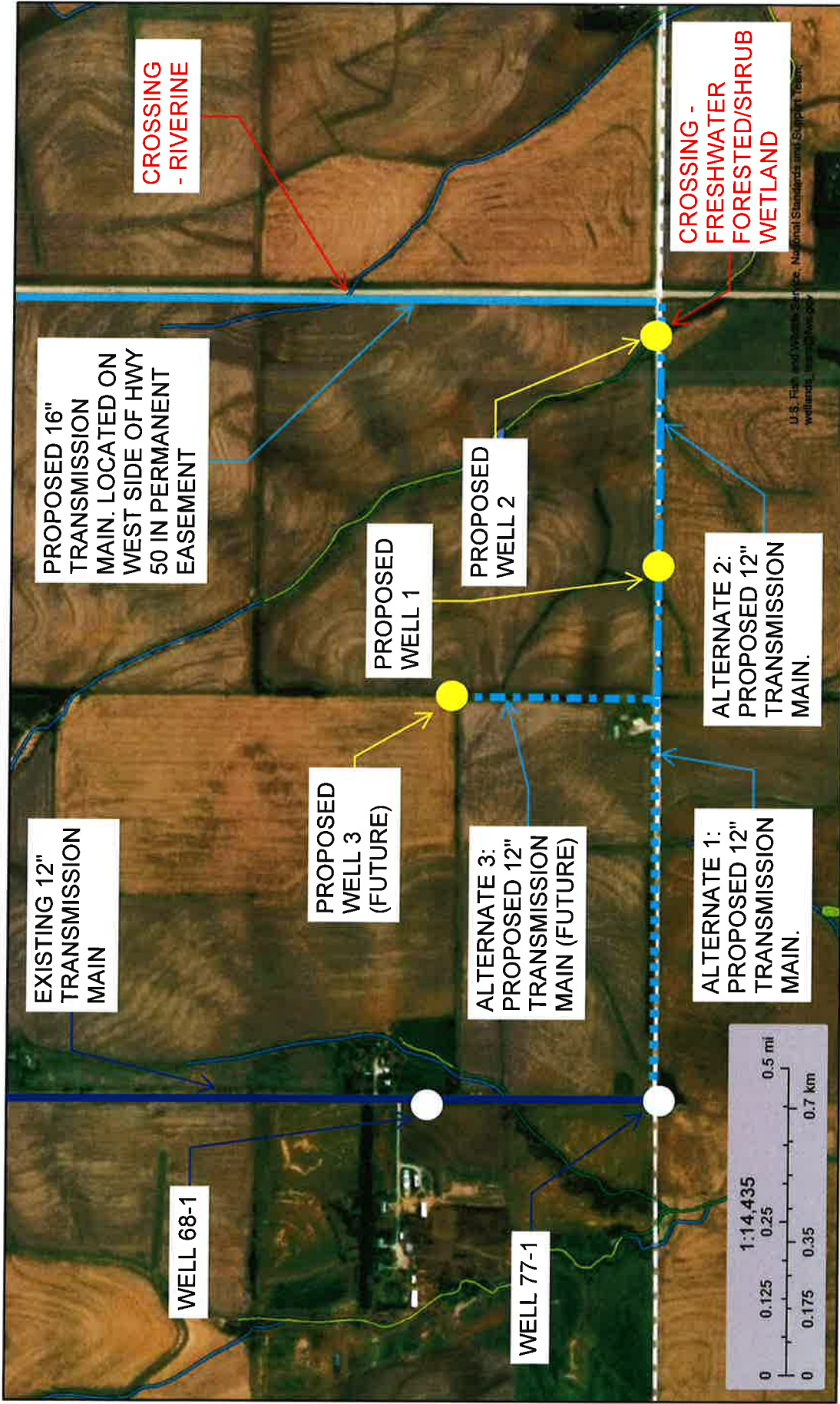




U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# National Wetlands Inventory

12



March 6, 2019

### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- 16" Transmission Main
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- 12" Transmission Main
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

# JEO LETTER SENT TO STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES



ENGINEERING ■ ARCHITECTURE ■ SURVEYING ■ PLANNING

August 10, 2018

Mitch Paine  
NE Dept. of Natural Resources  
301 Centennial Mall South, PO Box 94676  
Lincoln NE 68509

RE: Syracuse, Nebraska  
Water System Improvements  
JEO Project No. 161913

Dear Mr Paine:

The City of Syracuse, Nebraska is in the planning phase of a water system improvement project, which could be in full or partially funded by State or Federal funding sources. The purpose of this letter is to request your review and response regarding any environmental impacts that your Agency may identify for this proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

The City's wells have had elevated nitrate levels, not over the MCL, and are a continual cause for concern for the City. A test well program and hydrogeological investigation concluded that nitrates are present in an upper aquifer and could be reduced if the upper aquifer was sealed off from the lower aquifer and well screen. The 2018 master plan also concluded the existing two wells and transmission main lack redundancy and capacity to meet future demands. Therefore, this project includes adding two more drinking water wells (Alt 1 & 2) to the system and a redundant 16" transmission main (Alt 4) approximately 9 miles in length. The combination of these alternatives will help provide additional capacity to the water system and improve the overall reliability of the water system for the City of Syracuse.

Enclosed are two maps outlining the extents of the improvement alternatives. We request that you advise us of any comments that you may have regarding this proposed project within 30 days, so the City can proceed with finalizing the funding of this project and completion of the environmental assessment. Acceptable means of correspondence include mail (address listed below) or an email forwarded to [tdoane@jeo.com](mailto:tdoane@jeo.com). If you have any questions concerning this proposed project or if you need further information, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Doane', is written over a white rectangular background.

Tyler Doane, PE  
Project Engineer

Cc: Marty Norton, USDA



# STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES CONTACT LIST

First Name	Last Name	Title	Company	Physical Address	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip	Standardized Address for Mailing
Robert	Hilke	Manager	Nemaha NRD	62161 Hwy 136		Tecumseh	NE	68450	
Mitch	Paine		NE Dept. of Natural Resources	301 Centennial Mall South	PO Box 94676	Lincoln	NE	68509-4676	PO BOX 94676 LINCOLN NE 68509-4676
Trisha	Scott	Field Services & Assistance	NDEQ	1200 "N" Street, Suite 400	PO Box 98922	Lincoln	NE	68509	PO BOX 98922 LINCOLN NE 68509-8922
Nick	Chevance	Environmental Coordinator	National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office		601 Riverfront Drive	Omaha	NE	68102-4228	601 RIVERFRONT DR OMAHA NE 68102-4228
Wayne	Vanek	State Conservationist	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Federal Building, Room 152	100 Centennial Mall North	Lincoln	NE	68508-3866	100 CENTENNIAL MALL N RM 152 LINCOLN NE 68508-3866
Eliza	Hines	Field Supervisor	US Dept. of Interior	Fish and Wildlife Service	9325 South Alda Road	Wood River	NE	68883	9325 S ALDA RD STE B WOOD RIVER NE 68883-9565
John	Moeschen	State Program Manager	USACOE	Nebraska Regulatory Office	8901 S. 154th Street, Suite 1	Omaha	NE	68138-3621	8901 S 154TH ST OMAHA NE 68138-3635
Carey	Greil		NE Game and Parks Commission	2200 North 33rd Street	PO Box 30370	Lincoln	NE	68503-0370	PO BOX 30370 LINCOLN NE 68503-0370
John	Riassetto		NE State Historical Society	1500 R Street	PO Box 82554	Lincoln	NE	68501	PO BOX 82554 LINCOLN NE 68501-2554
Jim	Heire	Fire Marshal	NE State Fire Marshal		621-South-14th-Street	Lincoln	NE	68508	246 S 14TH ST LINCOLN NE 68508-1804
Kandi	Bremer	Aviation Liaison	Nebraska Department of Aeronautics		PO Box 82088	Lincoln	NE	68501	PO BOX 82088 LINCOLN NE 68501-2088
Amy	Scott	THPO	Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma	335588 E 750 Rd		Perkins	OK	74059-3288	
Calvin	Henlan	THPO	Omaha Tribe of Nebraska		PO Box 368	Macy	NE	68039	
Galen	Springer	THPO	Ojibwe-Missouria Tribe of Indians	8151 Highway 177		Red Rock	OK	74651-0348	
Edmore	Green	Chairman	Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska	305 N. Main St.		Reserve	KS	66434	
Sandra	Massey	THPO	Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma	920853 S Hwy 99		Stroud	OK	74079	
Judith	Bender	Chairperson	Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa	349 Meskwaki Rd		Tama	IA	52339	
Lance	Foster	THPO	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska	3345 B Thrasher Rd		White Cloud	KS	66094	
Lyman	Guy	Chairman	Apache Tribe of Oklahoma		PO Box 1330	Anadarko	OK	73005	PO BOX 1330 ANADARKO OK 73005-1330
Virginia	Richey	THPO	Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma	100 Red Moon Circle		Concho	OK	73022	

## Rafael Estrada

---

**From:** Brandt, Sharon <Sharon.Brandt@nebraska.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 12:05 PM  
**To:** Tyler Doane  
**Subject:** Syracuse Tanks  
**Attachments:** Syracuse Tanks.xlsx

This is in response to your inquiry dated August 10, 2018, regarding the environmental review for the above referenced project. At this time there are no facts known that would impact this project.

I have completed a search on our databases. I have attached here a search of **underground** storage tanks (UST) and **aboveground** storage tanks (AST) for the city in question.

Other issues related to construction, such as plan reviews and installation permits, are also not addressed in this response.

If you find that the proposed construction may be affected by underground storage tanks or if you have further questions, please contact me.

**Sharon Brandt**  
Staff Assistant, Fuel Division

**Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency**  
246 S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street | Lincoln, NE 68508  
Office | 402-471-9465

[Sharon.brandt@nebraska.gov](mailto:Sharon.brandt@nebraska.gov)  
[sfm.nebraska.gov](http://sfm.nebraska.gov) | [Facebook](#)  
Arson Hotline 1-888-WY-ARSON

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Journey.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



*Pete Ricketts, Governor*

August 20, 2018

Mr. Tyler Doane, PE  
JEO Consulting Group INC  
308 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Suite 1  
Grand Island, NE 68801-5941

Subject: Syracuse, NE  
Water System Improvements

Dear Mr. Doane,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the water system improvements in Syracuse.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics has no objection to the project as it will not impact any of the public use airports in Nebraska. The nearest public-use airport is Tecumseh Municipal Airport in Johnson County.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me  
[thomas.jacobson@nebraska.gov](mailto:thomas.jacobson@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-7925

Sincerely,

Thomas Jacobson  
Highway Local Liaison  
Aeronautics Division  
Nebraska DOT

Kyle Schnewels, P.E., Director  
Department of Transportation

1500 Highway 2  
PO Box 94759  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759

[dot.nebraska.gov](http://dot.nebraska.gov)

OFFICE 402-471-4567  
FAX 402-479-4325  
NDOT.ContactUs@nebraska.gov

Aeronautics Division  
3431 Aviation Road, Ste. 150  
PO Box 82088  
Lincoln, NE 68501  
OFFICE 402-471-2371  
FAX 402-471-2906

Navigation Aids Office  
Kearney Municipal Airport  
5065 Airport Road  
Kearney, NE 68847  
OFFICE 308-865-5696  
FAX 308-865-5697





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT  
NEBRASKA REGULATORY OFFICE  
8901 SOUTH 164<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 1  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68138-3635

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/Nebraska.aspx>

August 21, 2018

Mr. Tyler Doane  
JEO Consulting Group  
308 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 1  
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801-5941

RE: NWO-2018-01489-WEH Request for Review – City of Syracuse Water System Improvement

Dear Mr. Doane:

We have reviewed the preliminary information received in this office on August 16, 2018, concerning Department of Army (DA) comments on a proposed project to improve the water system for the city of Syracuse, Nebraska. The project is located at approximately 40.646885° North, -96.179167° West, in Section 21, Township 8 North, Range 11 East, in Otoe County, Nebraska.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is responsible for administering federal laws that regulate certain activities in the waters of the United States (WOUS). The authority applicable to this responsibility is Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1344), which prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into lakes, streams, or wetlands without authorization in the form of a Department of the Army (DA) permit, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

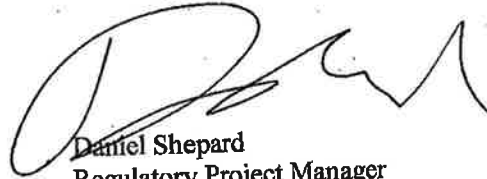
Regarding your request for comment relative to environmental impacts, this office will assess project impacts to WOUS and environmental impacts, after receipt of detailed, site specific information required under the Section 404 permit application review process.

If, in the future, you plan to place fill material in any WOUS, please provide this office with an application for review for possible permit requirements. Enclosed is a permit application for your use. You may obtain additional information about the Section 404 program and permitting process from our website shown at the top of this letter.

The Omaha District, Regulatory Branch is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, please take a moment to complete our Customer Service Survey on our website at [http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm\\_apex/f?p=regulatory\\_survey](http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey). If you do not have internet access, you may call and request a paper copy of the survey that you can complete and return to us by mail or fax.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Daniel Shepard at the above address, email [daniel.l.shepard@usace.army.mil](mailto:daniel.l.shepard@usace.army.mil), or call (402) 896-0896 and refer to file number NWO-2018-01489-WEH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Shepard', written over the typed name.

Daniel Shepard  
Regulatory Project Manager

Cc:  
City of Syracuse (Vogt)



TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 167  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

1-800-247-4612 Toll Free  
405-422-7484 Telephone

August 21, 2018  
THPO ID # 1078

JEO Consulting Group  
Tyler Doane  
308 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> street, Suite 1  
Grand Island, NE 68801-5941

RE: Syracuse, Nebraska Water System Improvements JEO Project No. 161913

On behalf of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, thank you for the notice of the referenced project. I have reviewed your Consultation request under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regarding the project proposal and comment as follows:

At this time, it is determined to be categorized as **No Properties**; however, if at any time during the project implementation inadvertent discoveries are made that reflect evidence of traditional cultural properties (TCP) such as: ceremonial or celebration objects, stone rings, villages, burial mounds, battlefield artifacts, or human remains please cease work immediately, in area of discovery and notify the Cheyenne Arapaho THPO Office within 72 hours.

In addition, if inadvertent discoveries are made; pursuant to Title 36 Code of Federal Regulation Part 800.13, as amended; you will also be required to make arrangements for a professional archaeologist to visit the site of discovery and assess the potential significance of any artifacts or features that were unearthed. If human remains are discovered State and Tribal NAGPRA representatives will be contacted and protocols will be executed.

Please contact me with the THPO ID number at (405) 422-7416 or [mdemery@c-a-tribes.org](mailto:mdemery@c-a-tribes.org), if you have any questions or concerns. Alternate Contact is Max Bear at [mbear@c-a-tribes.org](mailto:mbear@c-a-tribes.org). Thank you again for your notification!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Micah Looper".

Micah Looper  
Research Analyst  
Tribal Historic Preservation

CC:  
Max Bear, THPO

Please update your information to include Max Bear as the current THPO for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. Thank you!





# Tribal Directory Assessment Information



## Contact Information for Tribes with Interests in Otoe County, Nebraska

Tribal Name				County Name			
- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma				Otoe			
Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	Cell Phone	Email Address	URL
Lyman Guy	Chairman	PO Box 1330 Anadarko, OK 73005	(405) 247-9493	(405) 247-2763		lguy93@hotmail.com	http://www.apachetribe.org/
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma				Otoe			
Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	Cell Phone	Email Address	URL
Eddie Hamilton	Governor	P.O. Box 167 Concho, OK 73022	(405) 422-7734	(405) 422-8224		ehamilton@c-a-tribes.org	www.c-a-tribes.org
Virginia Richey	THPO	100 Red Moon Circle Concho, OK 73022	(405) 422-7630	(405) 422-8224		vrichey@c-a-tribes.org	www.c-a-tribes.org
Virginia Richey	THPO	100 Red Moon Circle Concho, OK 73022	(405) 422-7484	(405) 422-8224		msutton@c-a-tribes.org	www.c-a-tribes.org
Virginia Richey	THPO	100 Red Moon Circle Concho, OK 73022	(405) 422-7630	(405) 422-8224		msutton@c-a-tribes.org	www.c-a-tribes.org
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska				Otoe			

Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	Cell Phone	Email Address	URL
Tim Rhodd	Chairperson	3345 B Thrasher Rd. White Cloud, KS 66094	(785) 595-3258	(785) 595-6610		Trhodd@iowas.org	http://iowatribeofkansasandnebraska.com/
Lance Foster	THPO	3345 B Thrasher Rd. White Cloud, KS 66094	(785) 595-3258	(785) 595-6610		lfoster@iowas.org	http://iowatribeofkansasandnebraska.com/

**Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Otoe**

Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	Cell Phone	Email Address	URL
Amy Scott	THPO	335588 E 750 Rd Perkins, OK 74059-3268	(405) 547-2402			ascott@iowanation.org	http://bahkhanation.org
Bobby Walkup	Chairman	335588 E 750 Rd Perkins, OK 74059-3268	(405) 547-2402	(405) 547-1032		bwalkup@iowanation.org	http://bahkhanation.org

**Omaha Tribe of Nebraska Otoe**

Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	Cell Phone	Email Address	URL
Calvin R. Harlan	THPO	P.O. Box 368 Macy, NE 68039	(402) 837-5391	(402) 837-5308		CJHarlan59@yahoo.com	http://omahansn.gov/
Amen C. Sheridan	Chairperson	P.O. Box 368 Macy, NE 68039	(402) 837-5391	(402) 837-5308		asheridan@omahatribe.com	http://omahansn.gov/

**Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, Oklahoma Otoe**

Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	Cell Phone	Email Address	URL
John Shotton	Chairman	8151 Highway 177 Red Rock, OK 74651-0348	(580) 723-4466	(580) 723-4595		jshotton@omtribe.org	www.omtribe.org
Galen Springer	THPO	8151 Highway 177 Red Rock, OK 74651-0348	(580) 723-4466	(580) 723-4273			www.omtribe.org

— Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska Otoe

Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	Cell Phone	Email Address	URL
Edmore Green	Chairman	305 N. Main St. Reserve, KS 66434	(785) 742-0053	(785) 742-7146		egreen@sacandfoxcasin o.com	http://www.s acandfoxks. com

— Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma Otoe

Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	Cell Phone	Email Address	URL
Sandra Massey	THPO	920883 South Highway 99 Building A Stroud, OK 74079	(918) 968-3526	(918) 968-4837		smassey@s acandfoxnati on-nsn.gov	http://sacan dfoxnation- nsn.gov
George Thurman	Principal Chief	920883 South Highway 99 Building A Stroud, OK 74079	(918) 968-3526	(918) 968-4837		chief@saca ndfoxnation- nsn.gov	http://sacan dfoxnation- nsn.gov

— Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa Otoe

Contact Name	Title	Mailing Address	Work Phone	Fax Number	Cell Phone	Email Address	URL
Judith Bender	Chairperson	349 Meskwaki Rd. Tama, IA 52339	(641) 484-4678	(641) 484-5424		chair.council @msn.com	http://www. meskwaki.or g

1 - 9 of 9 results

« < 1 > » 10 ▾





2200 N. 33rd St. • P.O. Box 30370 • Lincoln, NE 68503-0370 • Phone: 402-471-0641

August 22, 2018

Tyler Doane  
JEO Consulting Group  
308 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 1  
Grand Island, NE 68801-5941

**RE: Water System Improvements for the City of Syracuse, Otoe County, JEO Project No. 161913**

Dear Mr. Doane:

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) staff members have reviewed the information for the proposal identified above. This review was requested pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The proposed project will not impact any NGPC State Park, State Recreation Area, or State Wildlife Management Areas, as none are located in the immediate project area.

Based on our review of the information provided, aerial photographs, and the Nebraska Natural Heritage database, the project is located within the range of the state-listed threatened western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*), river otter (*Lontra canadensis*), and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). There does not appear to be habitat for river otter that would be impacted by the proposed project activities. Therefore, it is unlikely that the project would have an adverse impact on this species.

The western prairie fringed orchid is a plant species that can occur in native tall or mixed-grass prairies that are associated with wet meadows. Although the plant can be a colonizer species and grow on disturbed areas, it is found in greatest abundance on high quality prairie. This plant blooms in late June to July. We do have records of western prairie fringed orchid from Otoe County. Based on aerial photography, there looks to be an area of grassland and/or wet meadow vegetation towards the north end of the proposed 16" transmission main that extends for approximately 0.5-mile abutting the west side of Highway 50 between Syracuse and the Little Nemaha River. The information provided shows that the proposed transmission main would cross this area along the west side of Highway 50, but it is not known to what extent the construction related impacts would occur in this area. If construction of the transmission main would disturb this grassland and/or wet meadow area, then we would recommend that a habitat assessment/survey for western prairie fringed orchid be conducted prior to construction to ensure that potential impacts to western prairie fringed orchid would be avoided.

The northern long-eared bat (NLEB) typically roosts singly or in colonies, during the summer, in cavities, underneath bark, crevices, or hollows of both live and dead trees and/or snags (typically greater than or equal to 3 inches dbh). This bat seems opportunistic in selecting roosts, using tree species based on presence of cavities or crevices or presence of peeling bark. They forage for insects in upland and lowland woodlots and tree lined corridors, and over water surfaces. In order to avoid adverse impacts

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to NLEB, we recommend that any tree clearing activities be scheduled to avoid the NLEB maternity roosting timeframe of June 1 – July 31.

In general, NGPC has concerns for impacts to wetlands, streams and riparian habitats. We recommend that impacts to wetlands, streams, and associated riparian corridors be avoided and minimized, and that any unavoidable impacts to these habitats be mitigated. If any fill materials will be placed into any wetlands or streams as a result of the proposed project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted to determine if a 404 permit is needed.

For construction activities near waterways, we recommend that appropriate sediment and erosion control methods be established during and after construction to prevent increased sediment input into the aquatic system in order to avoid impacting aquatic species and habitat. Care should be taken to avoid the input of contaminants into waterways during construction, such as construction byproducts, petroleum products, and other contaminants from equipment. Areas disturbed during construction should be re-seeded with a mix of native grasses and forbs appropriate for the area, while avoiding the use of invasive or exotic vegetative species.

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703-712: Ch 128 *as amended*) construction activities in grassland, wetland, stream, and woodland habitats that would otherwise result in the taking of migratory birds, eggs, young, and/or active nests should be avoided. The primary nesting season for migratory birds is from April 1 to July 15. However, some species of migratory birds are known to nest outside of this period. Construction activities that involve vegetation removal should be scheduled to avoid impacting migratory bird nesting. If this is not feasible, then a survey may be needed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office in Wood River can be contacted for information on how to avoid the unnecessary take of migratory birds.

Thank you for opportunity to review this proposal. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments at 402-471-5423 or [carey.grell@nebraska.gov](mailto:carey.grell@nebraska.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carey Grell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Carey Grell  
Environmental Analyst Supervisor  
Planning and Programming Division

**From:** Dominy, Neil - NRCS, Lincoln, NE <Neil.Dominy@ne.usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 23, 2018 1:23 PM  
**To:** Tyler Doane  
**Subject:** FPPA request - Syracuse, NE - Water System improvements



**Subject: FPPA response for: Syracuse, Nebraska - Water System improvements**

**Date: 08/23/2018**

**ATTENTION: Tyler Doane – JEO Consulting group**

I am responsible for the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) concerns and have reviewed the information you sent regarding the project for which you requested review of impacts. This review only covers FPPA concerns and does not include any other environmental concerns such as wetlands or endangered species. For general conservation concerns or questions relating to wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Food Security Act, contact your local county Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

It has been determined that a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating For Corridor Type Projects form (NRCS-CPA-106) will not be needed on this project since the project only includes approximately 0.11 acre of Prime or Important farmland and no significant additional cropland will be taken out of production, thus, NRCS has determined that your project was found to be cleared of FPPA significant concerns. We encourage you to continue to be aware of prime and important farmlands in general and the role they play in current and future projects.

Neil Dominy  
USDA/NRCS  
State Soil Scientist  
402-437-4113  
[Neil.dominy@ne.usda.gov](mailto:Neil.dominy@ne.usda.gov)

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## Project Review

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DATE: August 28, 2018  
TO: Tyler Doane, JEO Consulting Group, Inc.  
FROM: Robert Carnazzo, NeDNR  
SUBJECT: Syracuse Water System Improvements

---

As requested, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) has reviewed the proposed project for potential impacts to surface water rights, registered groundwater wells, floodplain management, and stream gages, and has listed the comments below:

### Surface Water Rights

NeDNR records indicate that surface water appropriations A-7890R and A-14495R are appurtenant to the proposed project location, please see the enclosed figure. If the details of the surface water right are permanently modified in some way by the project, appropriate modification requests will need to be provided to the Department for review. If you have any questions about surface water appropriations, please contact Mike Thompson at 402.471.0587 or reference the surface water links below.

*Surface water general information:* <http://dnr.nebraska.gov/surface-water>

*Surface water rights:* <http://nednr.nebraska.gov/dynamic/waterrights/SelectSearchOptions.aspx>

*Surface water rights forms:* <http://dnr.nebraska.gov/surface-water/forms>

*Ownership Change:* <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/sites/dnr.nebraska.gov/files/doc/surface-water/permits/49CHG-OWN2008.pdf>

*Relinquishment by landowner:* <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/sites/dnr.nebraska.gov/files/doc/surface-water/permits/51IndividualRelinquishmentForm.pdf>

### Groundwater Wells

According to NeDNR records, there is one (1) public supply well within the 1,000-foot spacing for the proposed project area and three (3) other registered wells within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area. Please note that the attached map shows the 1,000-foot spacing, but does not show the public supply well location. Please contact the local municipality for more information on public supply well names and locations. All other registered wells are shown on the map. Special care should be taken to locate and avoid impacting these wells in any significant way.

State statutes require all new public supply wells be at least 1,000 feet from existing wells. However, this excludes other public supply wells owned by the same municipality; please contact the local municipality regarding public supply well locations. Any new wells must be registered with NeDNR. Additionally, if the registration status, use, or ownership of a well changes due to

August 28, 2016

NeDNR Project Review - Syracuse Water System Improvements Project

Page 2

the project, one or both of the following forms must be filed with NeDNR: the water well registration modification form and/or the change of ownership form. Furthermore, the appropriate Natural Resources District (NRD), which may have additional rules and regulations regarding such changes, should be notified. If you have any questions on groundwater well registrations, please contact Mike Thompson at 402.471.0587 or reference the groundwater links below.

*Groundwater general information:* <http://dnr.nebraska.gov/groundwater>

*Groundwater well data:* <http://nednr.nebraska.gov/dynamic/wells/Menu.aspx>

*Groundwater forms:* <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/groundwater/forms>

*Local NRD Information:* <https://www.nrdnet.org/nrds/find-your-nrd>

#### Floodplain Management

The proposed project is located within a regulated (1% annual chance) floodplain and/or floodway, please see the attached figure. All development within a regulated floodplain and/or floodway needs to comply with local floodplain regulations, which includes obtaining a floodplain development permit. If you have any questions concerning floodplain management and permitting, please contact the local floodplain administrator, David Schmitz, Otoe County Surveyor and Zoning Administrator, at 402.873.9548 or [surveyor@otoe.nacone.org](mailto:surveyor@otoe.nacone.org) and Bruce Neemann, Syracuse's Zoning and Floodplain Administrator, at 402.269.2173 or [zoning@syracusene.com](mailto:zoning@syracusene.com).

#### Stream Gaging

NeDNR did not identify any active state or federal stream gages within the proposed project area.

If you have any questions about this review, please feel free to contact me at 402.471.0585 or [bob.carnazzo@nebraska.gov](mailto:bob.carnazzo@nebraska.gov).

Enclosure (3)

Cc: Mike Thompson, NeDNR  
David Schmitz, Otoe County  
Bruce Neemann, City of Syracuse



# Syracuse Water System Improvements Project

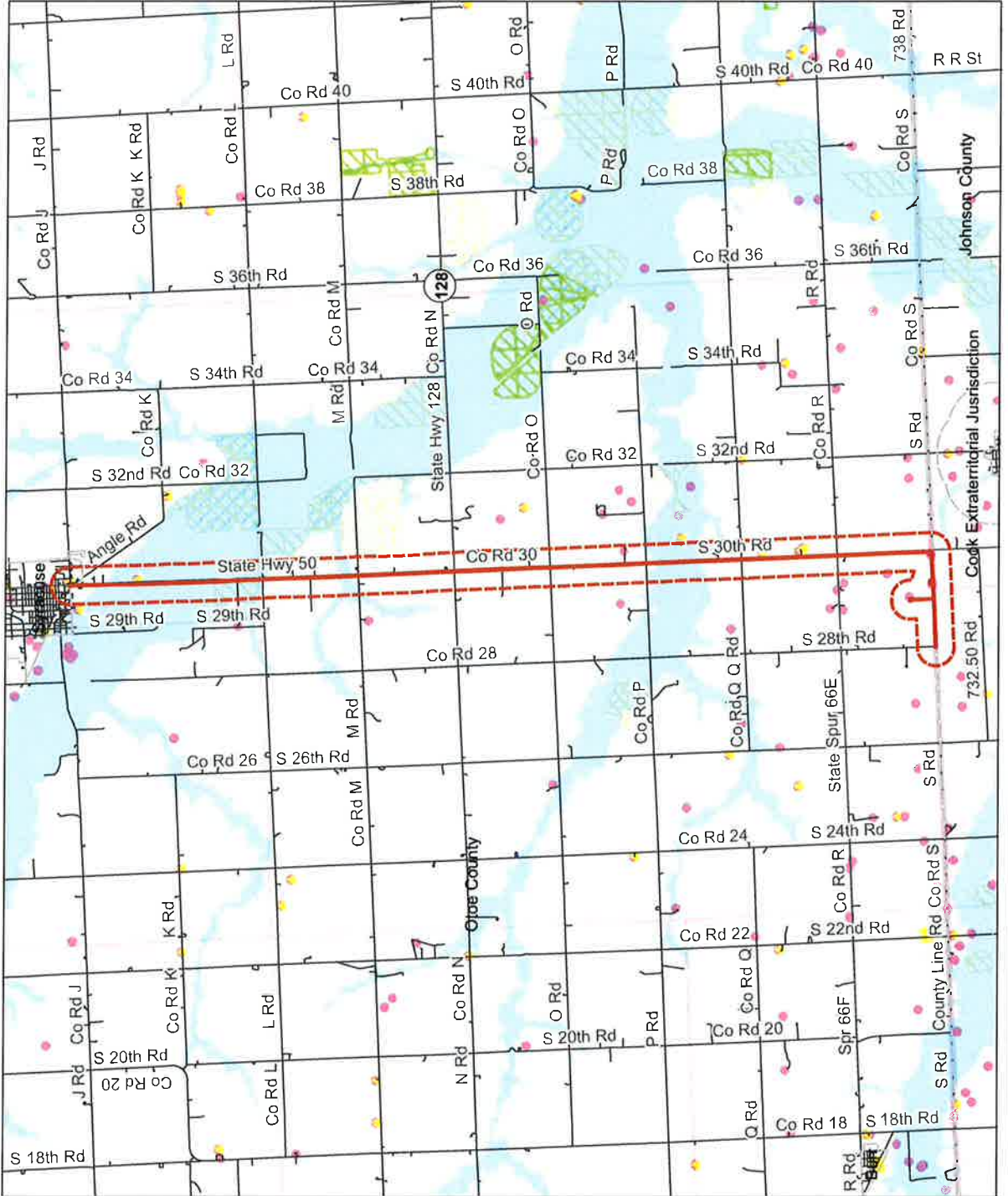
City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska

08/28/2018



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DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES



**Legend**

**Registered Wells**  
 Wells in Use (pink dot)  
 Abandoned Wells (yellow dot)

**Surface Water**  
 Irrigation (green diagonal lines)  
 Supplemental Irrigation (blue diagonal lines)  
 Domestic (light blue diagonal lines)  
 Other (yellow diagonal lines)

**Dams**  
 Jurisdictional Dams (red triangle)  
 Active Stream Gages (blue diamond)  
 NDNR (white diamond)  
 USGS (green diamond)

**Effective Flood Zones**  
 A, AE, AH, (light blue)  
 AE, FLOODWAY (light green)  
 X, 0.2 PCT ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD HAZARD (yellow)  
 X, AREA WITH REDUCED FLOOD RISK DUE TO LEVEE (light yellow)

**Paper Map - Effective Flood Zones**  
 1% Annual Flood Chance (blue hatched)

**Other**  
 Approximate Project Area (red dashed outline)  
 1,000 ft PWS Spacing (red dashed line)  
 Major Stream (blue line)  
 Road (black line)

**Scale:** 0 to 10,000 feet  
**North Arrow:** N

Floodplain and Dam Safety Division, Cartographer: Robert Carmazzo

# Syracuse Water System Improvements Project

City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska

08/28/2018



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**Legend**

**Registered Wells**  
 Wells in Use (pink dot)  
 Abandoned Wells (yellow dot)

**Surface Water**  
 Irrigation (green diagonal lines)  
 Supplemental Irrigation (blue diagonal lines)  
 Domestic (blue horizontal lines)  
 Other (green diagonal lines)

**Dams**  
 Jurisdictional Dams (red triangle)

**Active Stream Gages**  
 NDNR (blue diamond)  
 USGS (green diamond)

**Effective Flood Zones**  
 A, AE, AH, (light blue)  
 AE, FLOODWAY (pink)  
 X, 0.2 PCT ANNUAL CHANGE FLOOD HAZARD (yellow)  
 X, AREA WITH REDUCED FLOOD RISK DUE TO LEVEE (light green)

**Paper Map - Effective Flood Zones**  
 1% Annual Flood (blue grid)  
 Chance (light blue)

**Other**  
 Approximate Project Area (red outline)  
 1,000 ft PWS Spacing (red dashed line)  
 Major Stream (blue line)  
 Road (black line)

Scale: 0, 1,000, 2,000 Feet  
 North Arrow

Floodplain and Dam Safety Division, Cartographer: Robert Carrazzo



# Syracuse Water System Improvements Project

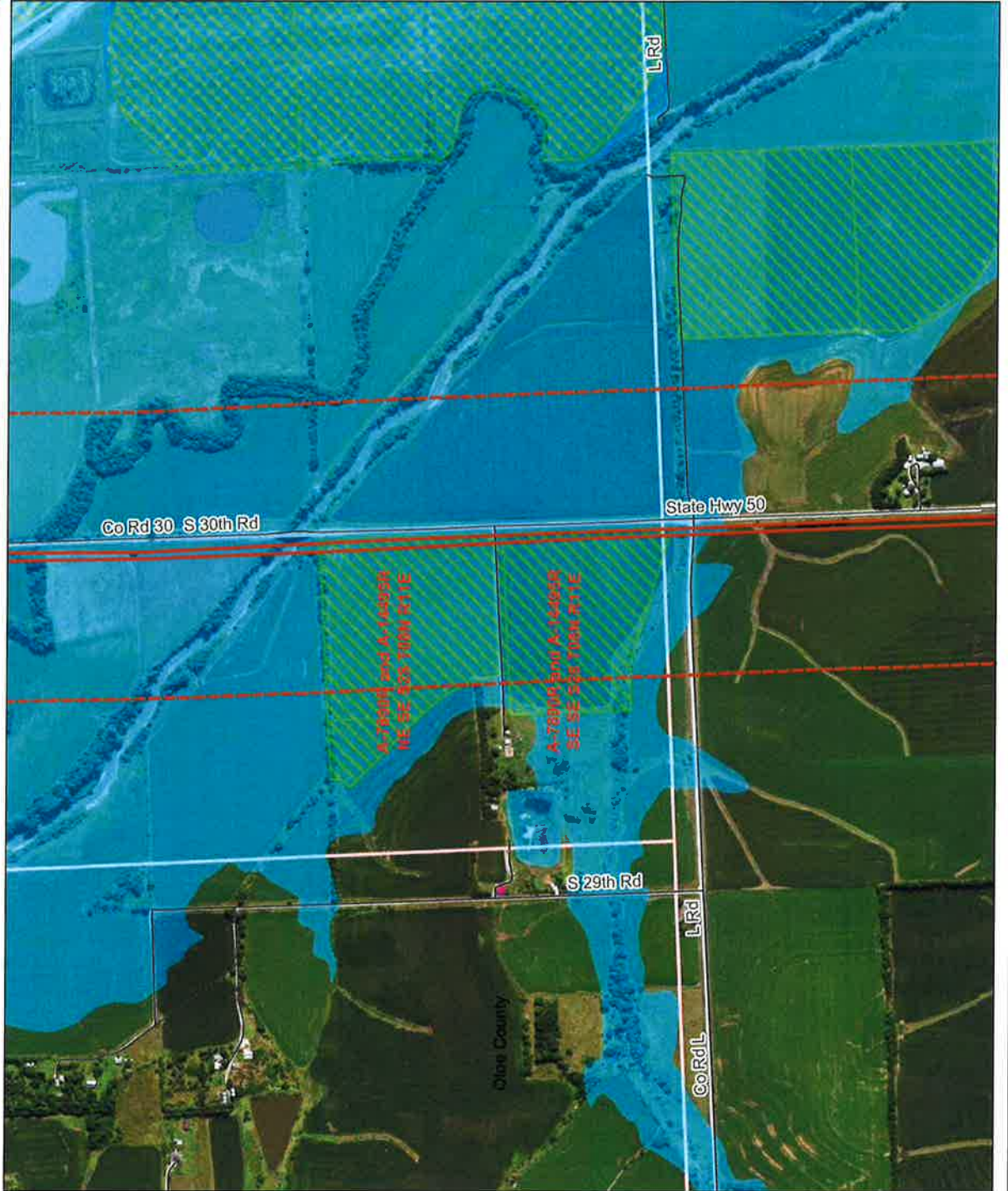
City of Syracuse, Otoe County, Nebraska

08/28/2018



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DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES



- Legend**
- Registered Wells**
    - Wells in Use (pink dot)
    - Abandoned Wells (yellow dot)
  - Surface Water**
    - Irrigation (green diagonal lines)
    - Supplemental Irrigation (blue diagonal lines)
    - Domestic (light blue diagonal lines)
    - Other (yellow diagonal lines)
  - Dams**
    - Jurisdictional Dams (red triangle)
  - Active Stream Gages**
    - NDNR (blue diamond)
    - USGS (green diamond)
  - Effective Flood Zones**
    - A, AE, AH, (light blue)
    - AE, FLOODWAY (pink)
    - X, 0.2 PCT ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD HAZARD (yellow)
    - X, AREA WITH REDUCED FLOOD RISK DUE TO LEVEE (light green)
  - Paper Map - Effective Flood Zones**
    - 1% Annual Flood Chance (light blue)
  - Other**
    - Approximate Project Area (red outline)
    - 1,000 ft PWS Spacing (red dashed line)
    - Major Stream (blue line)
    - Road (black line)

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

N

Floodplain and Dam Safety Division, Cartographer: Robert Carnazzo



**From:** Chuck Wingert <cwingert@nemahanrd.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2018 1:45 PM  
**To:** Tyler Doane  
**Cc:** Bob Hilske  
**Subject:** City of Syracuse Water System Improvement Project Environmental Review

Dear Mr. Doane,

The Nemaha Natural Resources District has reviewed the City of Syracuse' Water System Improvement Project (JEO Project #161913) and has not identified any detrimental environmental impacts pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The District applauds the City for the work they have completed so far and for the future planning efforts of this potential project.

Sincerely,

Chuck Wingert  
Water Resources Manager  
Nemaha Natural Resources District  
62161 US Highway 136  
Tecumseh, NE 68450  
(402) 335-3325 Voice  
(402) 335-3265 FAX  
Check out our website: [www.nemahanrd.org](http://www.nemahanrd.org)  
Nebraska's NRDs: 40 Years of Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future

**Rafael Estrada**

---

**From:** Scott, Tricia <tricia.scott@nebraska.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 04, 2018 1:34 PM  
**To:** Tyler Doane  
**Subject:** Syracuse Water System Improvements

4 September 2018

JEO Consulting Group, Inc.  
ATTN: Mr. Tyler Doane

RE: Syracuse Water System Improvements

Dear Mr. Doane:

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has reviewed the above referenced project. As with any project, permits may be required prior to beginning construction or operation. At a minimum, you should be aware of the possible requirements or permits:

	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Fugitive Dust Regulations	Hannah Jones	(402) 471-4262
Construction Storm Water – General Permit	Ryan Joe	(402) 471-8330
Wastewater	Dan LeMaistre	(402) 471-4203
Water Quality Section 404 Permitting	Kim Copenhaver	(402) 471-2875
Waste Disposal	Erik Waiss	(402) 471-8308

Nebraska Title 129, Chapter 32 fugitive dust regulations shall apply to all excavation, grading, and demolition activities.

A Construction Stormwater Permit will be required if construction activity results in land disturbances of one or more acres.

Maintain and equate separation between any drinking water and wastewater lines.

Review work site for wetlands and streams, then avoid and minimize impacts to those aquatic resources where possible. CWA 404 permit necessary for construction.

No Waste Permit required. As with construction and excavation projects, all efforts must be made to handle, contain, and dispose of all wastes discovered or generated on site. Additionally, review rules on Investigative Derived Waste (IDW) with regard to drill cuttings.

If you have questions about the permitting process, or any other questions, feel free to contact me at (402) 471-4285, or the individual listed above. For more information, please visit our website at [deq.ne.gov](http://deq.ne.gov).

Sincerely,

Tricia Scott



Preserving the past. Building the future.

Tyler Doane  
Project Engineer  
JEO Consulting Group  
308 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 1  
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801-5941

September 5, 2018

RE: HP# 1808-100-01; City of Syracuse – Water System Improvements Project, JEO Project No. 161913, Sect. 3/10, T10N, R6W, Hamilton County

Dear Mr. Doane:

Thank you for submitting the information for the above referenced project for Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office review and comment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 2014 (Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108 [formerly 16 U.S.C. § 470f]), and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR§800.

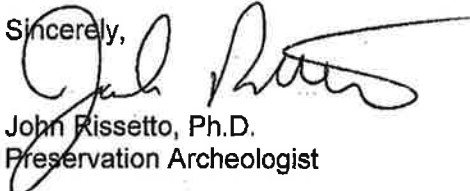
According to the information provided along with a check of NeSHPO records, the ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed installation of new water wellfield and water transmission mains south of the City of Syracuse, Nebraska are unlikely to impact any prehistoric or historic cultural resources listed on the National Register or eligible for such a listing. Thus, a determination of *no historic properties affected* is appropriate for this undertaking and the project should continue as planned.

However, since the various project areas have not been directly evaluated by professional archeologists there is the possibility that currently buried or otherwise obscured cultural or human remains may be discovered during the undertaking. If any such discovery is made, please contact this office immediately for further instruction.

Be advised that this determination does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Native American Tribes that may have an interest in the area, nor does it pertain to Traditional Cultural Properties, if they exist in the area.

Please submit this letter to the project's lead federal agency to fulfill the statutory obligation of Section 106 consultation with the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office. Should you have any questions regarding this determination, please contact this office by phone (402-471-2609) or email ([John.Rissetto@nebraska.gov](mailto:John.Rissetto@nebraska.gov)).

Sincerely,



John Rissetto, Ph.D.  
Preservation Archeologist

1500 R Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508-1651  
P: 402.471.3270  
P: 800.833.6747  
F: 402.471.3100  
[history.nebraska.gov](http://history.nebraska.gov)





ENGINEERING ■ ARCHITECTURE ■ SURVEYING ■ PLANNING

August 10, 2018

FWS NE 2018 - 368

Eliza Hines  
Field Supervisor US Dept. of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
9325 S Alda RD STE B  
Wood River NE 68883-9565



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO CONCERNS	
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCUR NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO COMMENT	
<i>Eliza Hines</i>	<i>9.6.18</i>
ELIZA HINES	DATE
NEBRASKA FIELD SUPERVISOR	

RE: Syracuse, Nebraska  
Water System Improvements  
JEO Project No. 161913

Dear Eliza Hines,

The City of Syracuse, Nebraska is in the planning phase of a water system improvement project, which could be in full or partially funded by State or Federal funding sources. The purpose of this letter is to request your review and response regarding any environmental impacts that your Agency may identify for this proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

The City's wells have had elevated nitrate levels, not over the MCL, and are a continual cause for concern for the City. A test well program and hydrogeological investigation concluded that nitrates are present in an upper aquifer and could be reduced if the upper aquifer was sealed off from the lower aquifer and well screen. The 2018 master plan also concluded the existing two wells and transmission main lack redundancy and capacity to meet future demands. Therefore, this project includes adding two more drinking water wells (Alt 1 & 2) to the system and a redundant 16" transmission main (Alt 4) approximately 9 miles in length. The combination of these alternatives will help provide additional capacity to the water system and improve the overall reliability of the water system for the City of Syracuse.

Enclosed are two maps outlining the extents of the improvement alternatives. We request that you advise us of any comments that you may have regarding this proposed project within 30 days, so the City can proceed with finalizing the funding of this project and completion of the environmental assessment. Acceptable means of correspondence include mail (address listed below) or an email forwarded to [tdoane@jeo.com](mailto:tdoane@jeo.com). If you have any questions concerning this proposed project or if you need further information, please let me know at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Tyler Doane, PE  
Project Engineer

Cc: Marty Norton, USDA

**JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC ■ JEO ARCHITECTURE INC**

308 W. 3rd Street | Suite 1 | Grand Island, Nebraska 68801-5941 | p: 308.381.7428 | f: 308.381.2635

[www.jeo.com](http://www.jeo.com)