



DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

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

PROJECT NAME: Nickerson Wastewater Lagoon and Lift Station Rehabilitation and Sanitary Outfall Sewer Replacement
APPLICANT: Nickerson, Nebraska
COUNTY: Dodge County
POPULATION: 369 (2010 Census)
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318024
NDEQ ID No.: 57778
AWIN SUSTAINABILITY SCORE: 16 (high risk)
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$600,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$150,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF SMALL TOWN GRANT AMOUNT: \$115,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$335,000

The Village of Nickerson is located in Dodge County in eastern Nebraska. The 2010 census population was 369. A Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued on July 29, 2015 by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), now named the Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), for lagoon dike damage from erosion. The Village hired a Consulting Engineer who submitted a preliminary engineering report to the Department for repair of the eroded dikes and other deficiencies on December 19, 2019. The project will repair the interior dike slopes of lagoon cells 4 and 5 and add riprap to the interior slopes to protect from future erosion. The outfall sanitary sewer on East Cedar Street from the railroad tracks to the primary lift station, approximately 1,125 linear feet of 8 inch diameter HDPE pipe. The primary lift station will be rehabilitated with new pumps, controls, backup generator, along with a new 1,000 linear feet 4 inch force main to lagoon cell no. 3. Repairs will be made to the diversion and inlet structure and interconnecting structures. An infiltration and inflow study with CCTV will be conducted to analyze a history of excess ground water inflow in recent wet years.

The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is listed on the planning list of the SFY2020 Intended Use Plan (IUP). Nickerson

qualifies for a 20-year loan at a current program interest rate of 1.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.5 percent of the outstanding principal balance will be assessed each year. Nickerson qualifies for loan forgiveness capped at \$150,000 having an Assessing Wastewater Infrastructure Needs (AWIN) score of high risk sustainability of 16. Nickerson is also eligible for a CWSRF Small Town Grant of \$115,000 to keep the impact of CWSRF debt service at a ceiling of \$10.00 per month per user.

Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the loan. Current residential sewer use rates are a flat rate of \$15.00 per month. The Village of Nickerson is estimated to have approximately 141 residential and commercial sewer connections. Sewer rates are estimated to raise by \$10.00 per month to cover the proposed SRF debt service and 10 percent coverage requirement. The sewer rate will be evaluated at the completion of the project to ensure coverage of final debt service and O&M costs.

The project will result in continued wastewater collection and treatment of sewage flows from the Village. The project will reduce infiltration and inflow from the existing outfall sewer. The project will rehab the primary lift station and interior lagoon dikes in cells 4 and 5. A study will be conducted by CCTV to analyze the balance of the sanitary collection system for infiltration and inflow. The collection system has already been smoke tested in November of 2018 which found point repairs on 9 service lines and manholes.

The review did not indicate a significant environmental impact would result from the proposed action. The project is located in the 100 year flood plain of the Elkhorn River. The project will monitor for nesting and migratory birds, which could be disturbed by construction. The construction contract documents will require the contractor to satisfy the requirements of the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The project does not discriminate against any segment of the community's population nor suffers disproportionately from human health or environmental effects.

The 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 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 replacement of existing facilities.

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, floodplains, wild and scenic rivers, and

significant fish or wildlife habitat. The existing wastewater lagoons are inside the 100 year floodplain.

- 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 proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy 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 Tom Fuenning, Review Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-4989 or email: tom.fuenning@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 12th day of February, 2020.

Sincerely,


Jim Macy
Director

JM/tsf

Attachments:

Distribution List

Maps

1. Topo quad map
2. Map showing smoke testing results
3. Floodplain Interactive Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
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(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT:
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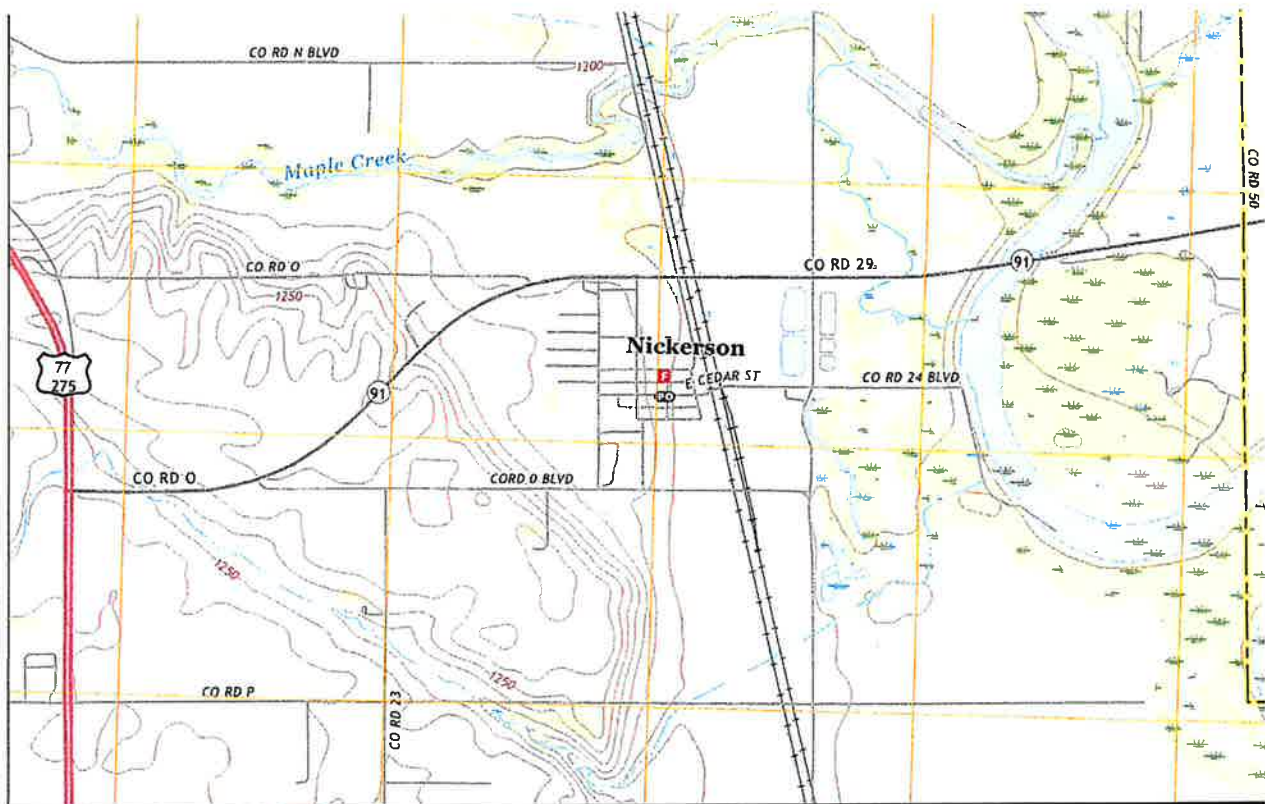


Figure 2. Quadrangle Map (U.S. Geological Survey – 2017) – Village of Nickerson, Nebraska.

The Nickerson Topo quad map, last revised in 2017, shows the Village layout, topographical contours, and nearby natural features.

USER: alowery

DWG: F:\2018\1501-2000\018-1619\40-Design\Exhibits\Nickerson Sewer Layout Figure.dwg

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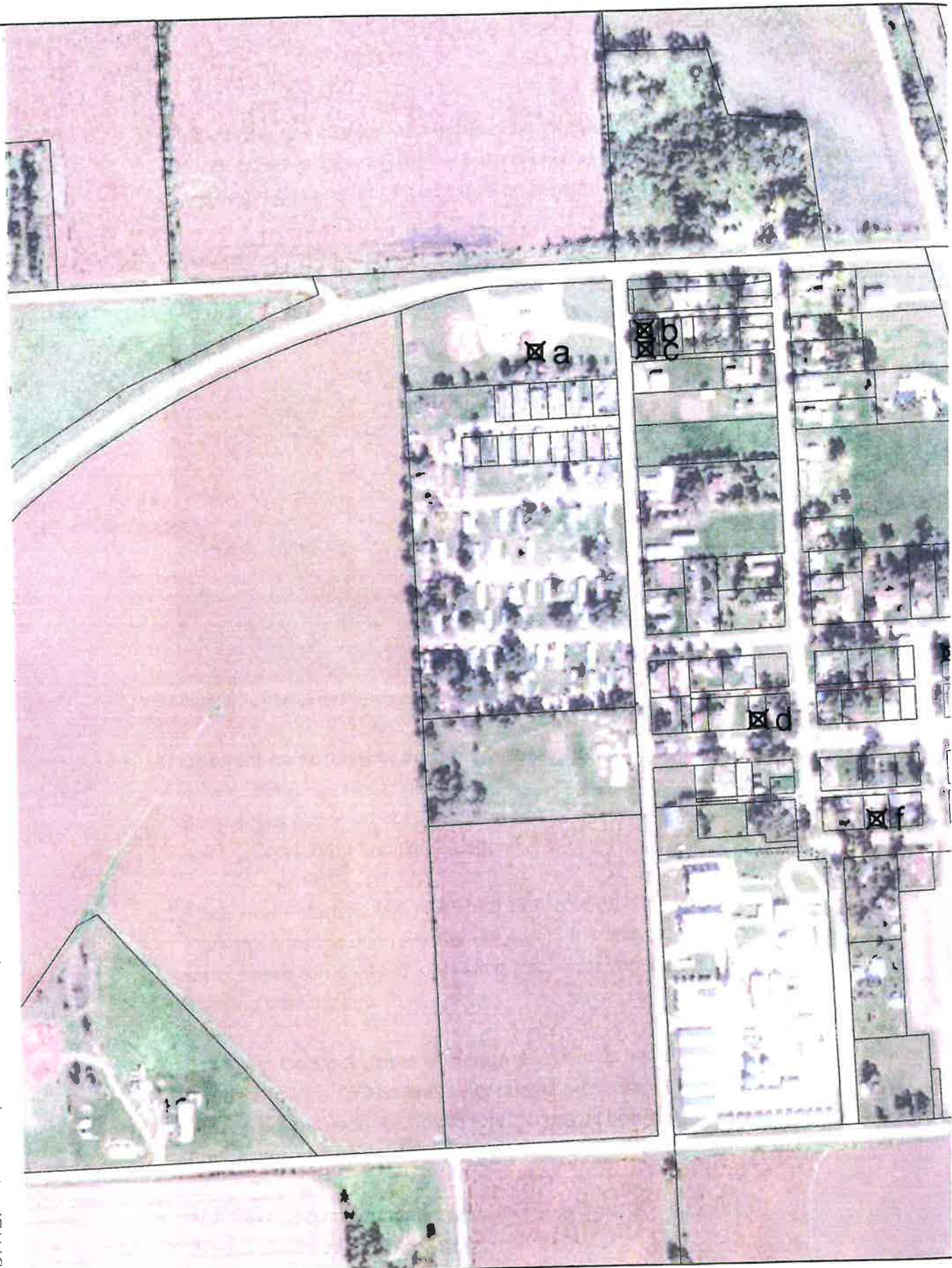
DATE: Mar 08, 2019 12:18pm

DWG:
DATE:

PROJECT NO: 018-1619

DRAWN BY: SLP

DATE: 01/03/2019



VILLAGE OF NICKERSON, NE
- AREAS OF POTENTIAL



OKE TESTING RESULTS
AL INFLOW

olsson

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FIGURE

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