



## CLEAN AND 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 Clean Water State Revolving Fund and 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 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: Valentine Interceptor Sanitary Sewer Main and Water Main Replacements  
APPLICANT: Valentine, Nebraska  
COUNTY: Cherry  
POPULATION: 2,633 (2020)  
IIS PROJECT NO: 5341  
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318075  
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311717  
ESTIMATED PROJECT TOTAL: \$7,650,000  
ESTIMATED CWSRF PROJECT AMOUNT: \$5,700,000  
ESTIMATED CWSRF GREEN PROJECT RESERVE AMOUNT: \$5,700,000  
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN PRINCIPAL AMOUNT: \$3,135,000  
ESTIMATED CWSRF 45% LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$2,565,000  
ESTIMATED DWSRF LOAN PRINCIPAL AMOUNT: \$1,950,000

The City of Valentine, Nebraska, is planning to construct an east interceptor sanitary sewer of approximately three miles in length to abandon three lift stations and alleviate an inundated sewer that runs down main street. The interceptor would span the south-central part of town and complete a gravity 15-inch diameter interceptor along the east side of town then step up to 18-inch diameter proceeding north with a 14-inch HDPE connection to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Currently the lift station on the southeast corner of town discharges to the west into the south-central lift station that pumps the entire area down main street. The new interceptor would alleviate this issue and provide capacity for developments on the east of town.

The City of Valentine intends to install new water mains of approximately one and half miles in length in conjunction with their sewer interceptor project. There are two proposed water mains. The first begins at 3rd and Green Street and runs east then north to the intersection of 8th and Dowden Streets. This main will provide looping to better serve the City Third Addition that currently is only served from the southwest. This will also allow for new development along the east side of the City. The second main starts at the golf course and runs parallel to the interceptor sewer to serve the wastewater treatment plant (WWTF). The existing well at the WWTF has been problematic so the City wants to connect the plant to City water and provide a more reliable water service to the WWTF. The water main construction includes associated appurtenances and surface repairs.

The City of Valentine has applied for financial assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program for the construction of sanitary sewer interceptor improvements. This project is listed in the SFY 2024 and 2025 Green Project Reserve Intended Use Plan which makes it eligible for financing through the CWSRF program. Valentine is eligible funding list for a 30-year CWSRF loan at a projected program per annum interest rate of 0.7 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.7 percent of the outstanding principal balance would be assessed each year. Valentine is eligible for 45% loan forgiveness for the interceptor sewer project.

The City of Valentine has applied for financial assistance through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program for construction of related water main improvements. The project is listed in the SFY 2024 and 2025 Intended Use Plan funding list which makes it eligible for financing through the DWSRF program. Valentine is eligible for a 30-year DWSRF loan at a projected program per annum interest rate of 0.7 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.7 percent of the outstanding principal balance would be assessed each year.

A public hearing was held on the project on December 14, 2023, having a 36-day advertised notice in the Valentine Midland News. The engineer presented the Interceptor Sewer project improvement proposed routes, design criteria and map. The sewer and water user rate impacts were presented for the Interceptor Project and related water main replacements. The Engineer reported that the required enhanced environmental assessment was complete and concerns from the State Historical Society and Game and Parks Commission were being addressed. No public opposition was expressed at the public hearing.

The current monthly sewer rate is a base rate of \$14.65 for 400 cubic feet of winter water use plus a use rate of \$1.47 per 100 cubic feet winter water use. This equates using an average household monthly winter water use of 700 cubic feet to \$19.06 per month typical residential sewer rate. Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the \$3,135,000 CWSRF principal loan balance. The City of Valentine has approximately 1,315 residential sewer connections. The first year CWSRF loan repayment for a 30-year term, 0.7% per annum interest plus an annual 0.7% administrative fee on the outstanding principal balance is approximately \$137,818.70 which requires a 10% coverage requirement. The current sewer rate when added to the projected debt service rate increase of \$9.60 equals \$28.66.

The current monthly water rate is a base rate of \$8.49 plus a use rate of \$0.86 per 100 cubic feet monthly water use. This equates using an average household monthly water use of 700 cubic feet to \$14.51 per month typical residential water rate. Water use fees would be pledged to repay the \$1,950,000 DWSRF loan. The City of Valentine has approximately 1,315 residential water connections. The first year CWSRF loan repayment for a 30-year term, 0.7% per annum interest plus an annual 0.7% administrative fee on the outstanding principal balance is approximately \$85,724.54 which requires a 10% coverage requirement. The current water rate when added to the projected debt service rate increase of \$5.97 equals \$20.48.

A Construction Storm Water General Permit will be required from NDEE if more than 1 acre of land will be disturbed. The community can designate the General Contractor as the authorized representative on the storm water permit notice of intent submitted to the NDEE. Authorization of storm water runoff from the construction activity must be in place prior to commencing construction and the areas disturbed during construction will be re-seeded with native grasses. The project will comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Eagle Act.

The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and the Department has determined that this project is eligible for a Finding of No Significant Impact. The project as proposed is to serve existing and a reasonable amount of future growth for the City of Valentine. All improvements will occur inside the existing City limits or easement boundaries. Justification for Finding of No Significant Impact 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 may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the northern long-eared bat and American burying beetle and no impacts are anticipated on all other state-listed and federally-listed endangered or threatened 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. A cultural resources survey was conducted for the interceptor route. Based on the information provided, the proposed undertaking is unlikely to affect any cultural resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for such a listing. Therefore, the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) concurs that the determination of no historic properties affected is appropriate for this undertaking and the project may proceed as planned.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas as wetlands, floodplains (unmapped), prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers (Niobrara River), and significant fish or wildlife habitat.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may be consistent with state or local government, or federally recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy shall revoke the Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) and shall require additional environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of FNSI, the state determines that the proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a FNSI 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 FNSI determination are encouraged to submit such comments directly to NDEE State Revolving Fund Program at [ndee.srf@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndee.srf@nebraska.gov), or at 402-471-4200.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

Sincerely,

Sarah Starostka, Administrator  
Planning and Aid Division

SS/tsf/cnw

Attachments: Environmental Assessment  
Distribution List  
Area Map

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

### A. Project Identification:

**Project Name:** Valentine's Interceptor Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Extensions

**Applicant:** City of Valentine

**CWSRF Project No.:** C318075

**DWSRF Project No.:** D311717

**City:** Valentine                      **County:** Cherry                      **State:** NE

**Total Project Amount:** \$7,650,000

**Projected CWSRF Total:** \$5,700,000

**Projected CWSRF Green Project Reserve Total:** \$5,700,000

**Projected CWSRF Loan Principal Amount:** \$3,135,000

**Projected CWSRF 45% Loan Forgiveness:** \$2,565,000

**Projected DWSRF Loan Principal:** \$1,950,000

### B. Community Description:

**Location:** The city of Valentine is located in north central Nebraska. The planning area includes the existing wastewater collection system service area and areas that may be served in the Interceptor improvements to the sanitary sewer system planned for the eastern half of the City's collection system.

**Population:** The 2020 census population for the project area was 2,633 and is projected to remain stable at 2,633 for 2045 as the community lost 6% population in the past thirty years

**Projected Collection System:** The wastewater flows projected to be carried by the interceptor is estimated at 85,200 gallons per day (gpd) per day for projected 710 population at 120 gallons per capita day or a peak flow of 323,800 gallons per day. A 15-inch sewer at minimum slope could easily handle this flow.

### C. Project Description:

**CWSRF Purpose:** The interceptor project to be funded with the proposed loan will eliminate three lift stations along the selected route. These are the south C street lift station, the Holiday Inn lift station, and the Pizza Hut lift station in Valentine's east sanitary sewer collection system.

**Design Factors:** The HDPE and PVC interceptor pipe that the City is proposing to install is listed below:

1. 2,021 linear feet of HDD 14-inch HDPE Sanitary Sewer Main:
2. 11,848 linear feet of 15-inch PVC Sanitary Sewer Main:
3. 2,169 linear feet of 18-inch PVC Sanitary Sewer Main:
4. 43 standard 48 inch diameter sanitary manholes:
5. 197 linear feet of 24-inch steel casing pipe jack and bore:
6. 74 linear feet of 18-inch steel casing pipe jack and bore:

**DWSRF Purpose:** It was desired to include a water main to the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) in the same utility corridor as the route is disturbed for the interceptor which will allow the City to provide water to the WWTF. The WWTF is currently supplied by an aging well that is pumping sand. Additional improvements will be provided that includes looping the water system and eliminating dead ends with a tie in at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Queen Street. In addition, the project will improve volume and pressure to the golf course and the City 3<sup>rd</sup> addition on the Northeast corner of town.

**Design Factors:** The HDPE and PVC water main that the City is proposing to install is listed below:

1. 4,396 linear feet of 8-inch PVC water main:
2. 1,840 linear feet of HDD 8-inch SDR9 HDPE Water main:
3. 1,321 linear feet of 6-inch PVC water main:
4. Twelve 8-inch gate valves and boxes:
5. Fourteen 6-inch gate valves and boxes:
6. 11 fire hydrant assemblies:

**D. Alternatives Considered:**

**Types:** The alternatives studied for the sanitary interceptor improvements included two routes:

1. **Route "A"** would install a 15-inch gravity sewer line from the existing manhole alongside the west side of the entry road to the old landfill, south along the east line of Section 31 to "C" street. Then along "C" Street under the Chicago Northwestern Railroad to an existing manhole servicing Alco providing constructability.
2. **Route "B"** would start at the intersection of Bias Street and Green Street. A 12-inch line would be installed in the east ditch of existing Green Street south to the intersection of Green Street and "C" Street. The route would then proceed west along "C" Street under the Chicago Northwestern Railroad.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The selection of Route "A" was more beneficial to design and construction. The advantages from Route "A" is the lift station behind Holiday Inn and the South lift station, south of the intersection of West "C" Street and North Main Street lift station would be eliminated. The elimination of three lift stations qualifies the Route "A" interceptor project for a Green Project Reserve designation from EPA. Additional service area would be obtained both to the east and west of the interceptor line for potential industrial or commercial services which could be added to the south. The other advantage to Route "A" is the west half of Green Street would not need to be removed and replaced, saving cost, adding convenience for traffic and shortening construction time.

**E. Environmental Impact Summary:**

**Primary:**

**Construction:** The construction will take place on City right-of-way and easements. Temporary impacts caused by construction include noise and dust and a limited potential for soil erosion, fuel and oil spills. Construction impacts will include temporary disruptions to traffic and business activities particularly with the interceptor construction to the existing collection system in the south part of town. The proposed project will require authorization under the Construction Storm Water General Permit. Excavation dewatering requires authorization under a general permit unless comprised entirely of storm water. Notification to the Department is required for excavations encountering contamination or in areas of known contamination. No impacts to historical or archaeological sites are anticipated.

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources website indicates that ending portions of the proposed project at the WWTF will be constructed in an unmapped floodplain. Wastewater treatment facilities are considered a "Critical Facility" and should be provided a higher level of protection so that it can continue to function and provide services after the flood. In accordance with Executive Order 14030 from May 20, 2021, which establishes Federal Flood Risk

Management Standards (FFRMS) for federally funded State Revolving Funded Projects. Projects must floodproof to the 0.2 percent annual chance flood elevation (known as the 500-year flood elevation). If any new construction is designed below the level one foot above the base flood level the structure shall be watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. A registered professional engineer shall certify that the floodproofing methods to be utilized are adequate to withstand the flood depths, pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces, sewage backups and other factors associated with the base flood. The water main to the WWTF will have a lockable access door to the Pressure Reducing Valve manhole as the new main comes into the plant and no impact to the unmapped floodplain is anticipated. The new sewer interceptor 48-inch manhole will have a bolted manhole cover to the frame to prevent loss of cover during a flood.

The State Historical Society reviewed the project and a cultural resource report was prepared. Based on the survey information provided, the proposed undertaking is unlikely to affect any cultural resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for such a listing. However even though the projects occurs within an area that has been evaluated by a professional archeologist, there is a possibility that buried cultural or human remains may be discovered. If any such discovery is made, the historical preservation office is to be immediately notified for further instruction.

**Environmental:** The project will improve wastewater collection in Valentine by reducing inflow and infiltration as well as surcharging and sewer backups. The project will support a reasonable amount of growth of commercial and industrial development keeping employment and the town's economy viable. It will assure proper wastewater treatment for existing and future growth along the southeastern edge of Valentine and protect ground water and surface water in the affected Niobrara River tributaries.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission both commented on the project. Both agencies indicated that the state and federally-listed endangered species which might be within the range of the project were the following:

1. Whooping Crane
2. Northern long-eared bat
3. American burying beetle
4. Northern redbelly dace
5. Finescale dace

Based on aerial imagery and the Nebraska Natural Heritage Database, there does not appear to be suitable roosting or foraging habitat within a ½ of a mile of the project area, therefore, impacts are not anticipated to whooping crane.

During the summer, northern long-eared bats typically roost singly or in colonies underneath bark or in cavities, crevices, or hollows of live and dead trees and/or snags (typically ≥ 3 inches dbh) and often prefer to be along streams or riparian corridors where water is readily available. There are records of northern long-eared bat within or near the project boundaries and potentially suitable summer roosting habitat exists within or near the project area. According to ERR NE-CERT-011029, the City's Engineer agreed that any required tree removal would occur outside of the active maternity roosting season (June 1 – July 31) in order to avoid adverse impacts to northern long-eared bat.

There are records of and habitat for American burying beetle (ABB) within or near the project boundaries. This species is found in a variety of habitats including grassland prairie, forest edge, scrubland, and mesic areas such as wet meadows, streams, and wetlands. The proposed project area is near the City of Valentine that comprises of regular human disturbances; however, the eastern portion of the project along the edge of Valentine appears to run through rangeland, which would be considered suitable for the ABB. Avoiding and minimizing soil disturbance within suitable habitat is the best available measure for avoiding take of this species, pursuant to the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act (NESCA). According to email correspondence from December 20, 2023, estimated the total potential impacts to ABB, via soil disturbance (2.75 acres). The data available indicates that ABB density within suitable habitat in Nebraska is approximately 0.13 ABB/acres. Based on this information, the estimated “take” from this project would be less than 0.5 ABB (0.36 ABB) and “take” is not reasonably certain to occur as a result of the project.

In Nebraska, northern redbelly dace and finescale dace are often found together in the headwaters of clear, cool, high-quality streams. There is no aquatic habitat present within the proposed project footprint. Based on the lack of suitable habitat within the proposed project area, impacts are not anticipated to these dace species.

Based on the information submitted, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission concurs with the project proponent’s determination that the proposed project **“May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect”** northern long-eared bat and ABB and acknowledges no impacts are anticipated on all other state-listed endangered or threatened species.

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Act, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project will comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Eagle Act. The USFWS provided the following list of Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC).

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
<b>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></b> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</a>	Breeds Oct 15 to Aug 31
<b>Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i></b> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406</a>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
<b>Ferruginous Hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i></b> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6038">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6038</a>	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 15
<b>Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i></b> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680>

**Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes***

Breeds elsewhere

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679>

**Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus***

Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398>

**Financial, CWSRF Loan:** These improvements to the Valentine collection system are eligible for funding through the CWSRF and are included in the FY2024 and FY2025 Intended Use Plan. The CWSRF loan will be for approximately \$5,700,000 project total. The City is eligible for 45% loan forgiveness which amounts to \$2,565,000. The principal of \$3,135,000 will be repaid at 0.7 percent, 30-year loan with an annual 0.7 percent administrative fee on the outstanding principal balance. This CWSRF loan would have an annual debt service of \$137,818.70 plus a 10% coverage factor requirement. Wastewater treatment revenues, including sewer tap fees and sewer use charges, will be dedicated to repay the loan. The current monthly sewer rate is a base rate of \$14.65 for 400 cubic feet of winter water use plus a use rate of \$1.47 per 100 cubic feet winter water use. This equates using an average household monthly winter water use of 700 cubic feet to \$19.06 per month typical residential sewer rate. The City of Valentine has approximately 1,315 residential sewer connections. The current sewer rate when added to the projected debt service rate increase of \$9.60 equals \$28.66. The sewer fund revenue requirements will be evaluated on an ongoing basis by the City of Valentine.

**Financial, DWSRF Loan:** The current monthly water rate is a base rate of \$8.49 plus a use rate of \$0.86 per 100 cubic feet monthly water use. This equates using an average household monthly water use of 700 cubic feet to \$14.51 per month typical residential water rate. Water use fees would be pledged to repay the \$1,950,000 DWSRF loan. The City of Valentine has approximately 1,315 residential water connections. The first year DWSRF loan repayment for a 30-year term, 0.7% per annum interest plus an annual 0.7% administrative fee on the outstanding principal balance is approximately \$85,724.54 which requires a 10% coverage requirement. The current water rate when added to the projected debt service rate increase of \$5.97 equals \$20.48. The water fund revenue requirements will be evaluated on an ongoing basis by the City of Valentine.

**Land Use and Trends:** The project will foster development in the southeast corner of town and a possible change of land use in the area. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service reviewed the project as required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act. The current proposal states that the only new construction will be buried water and sewer mains and all other work will take place on existing structures. The proposed site may involve areas of Prime Farmland; however, subsurface corridor projects (such as buried water, sewage, communication, or electrical lines) are exempt from the provisions of FPPA. Additionally, the restoration, maintenance, renovation, or replacement of existing structures prior to the time of Federal assistance are exempt from the provisions of FPPA. Acceptable erosion control methods will be used during the construction of this project.



**Environmental:** Pipe portions of the proposed project at the WWTF are assumed in the floodplain are to be floodproofed by locking manhole covers but no permanent impacts to floodplain are anticipated.

**Environmental Justice:** The project has been planned to ensure that no segment of the community's population is impacted disproportionately from related effects.

**Mitigation Measures Necessary to Eliminate Adverse Environmental Effect:** The project includes appropriate design features and proper construction practices to minimize erosion, inflow, and infiltration, impacts to the unmapped floodplain and other potential adverse impacts. Construction storm water permit from NDEE will be necessary since more than 1 acre of land will be disturbed. Dewatering permit may be required.

**Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources:** The resources committed to the project include the pipe and other construction materials and the energy used in construction.

**F. Measures Taken to Insure Environmental Soundness:**

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on the project on December 14, 2023, having a 36-day advertised notice in the Valentine Midland News. The engineer presented the Interceptor Sewer project improvement proposed routes, design criteria and map. The sewer and water user rate impact was presented for the Interceptor Project and related water main replacements. The Engineer reported that the required enhanced environmental assessment was complete and concerns from the State Historical Society and Game and Parks Commission were being addressed.

**Public Opposition or Opinions:** No public opposition was expressed at the public hearing. No comments or questions were made by the attendees.

**Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:**

**Planning Document:** Sanitary Interceptor Sewer Study, City of Valentine, prepared by Olsson Associates, Holdrege, NE, July 2015

**Prepared by:** WWAC Preapplication for State and/or Federal Assistance, prepared by Olsson Associates, Holdrege, NE, 9/22/2022

**Supplemental Planning Material:**

**Federal:** US Army Corps of Engineers, no comment  
US Fish and Wildlife Service, 11/1/23 letter  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 10/24/23 email  
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, no comment  
Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, no comment  
Sac & Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa, no comment  
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska & Iowa, no comment  
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, no comment  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, no comment  
Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas & Nebraska, no comment  
Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska, no comment  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, no comment

**State:** Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, 7/13/23 email  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 12/22/23 letter  
Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, no comment  
Nebraska State Historical Society 5/31/24 letter

**Local:** Valentine, City Council

**Consulting Engineers:** Olsson Associates

**Public Groups:** Citizens of Valentine

**Other:** Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District, no comment

- G. Positive Environmental Effects to be Realized from the Proposed Project:** The project will improve wastewater collection in Valentine by reducing inflow and infiltration as well as surcharging and sewer backups. Potential health hazards will be reduced. It will assure proper wastewater treatment for existing and future developments and protect surface water in the tributaries of the Niobrara River. The potential for ground water pollution in the area will be decreased with the project. In addition, the costs of treating inflow and infiltration will be reduced. The project qualifies for the Green Project Reserve designation from EPA due to the elimination of three sanitary lift stations by constructing the new interceptor sewer.
- H. Reasons for Concluding there will be No Significant Impacts:** Review of Sanitary Interceptor Sewer Study and other agency comment letters indicate that the proposed project will result in positive environmental effects and benefits with no significant negative impacts. No farmland is being permanently taken out of production. This project will promote development and thus indirectly result in land use changes in the southeast corner of Valentine. Underground pipe portions of the project as they enter the WWTF are located in the floodplain, but it will have no direct impact on floodplain flow elevation. No adverse impacts to critical habitats are anticipated. No known historical or archaeological sites will be impacted. There were no wetlands identified within the project area. The project was planned to ensure that no segment of the community's population is impacted disproportionately from related effects of environmental justice.

6/18/2024  
Date

Monica Fernandez PE  
Review Engineer

# VALENTINE INTERCEPTOR SANITARY SEWER MAIN

SECTION 29, 31 & 32, TOWNSHIP 34, RANGE 27W



VICINITY MAP  
N.T.S

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DISTRIBUTION LIST  
VALENTINE, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

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