



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

PROJECT NAME: 2020 Street & Sanitary Sewer Improvements
APPLICANT: Prague, Nebraska
COUNTY: Saunders
POPULATION: 303 (2010 census)
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318038
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$348,350
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$198,350
ESTIMATED CWSRF PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS: \$150,000

The Village of Prague, Nebraska, is planning to slip line and/or replace approximately 3 blocks of selected portions of their existing sanitary sewer collection system. The Village has applied for financial assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program to construct the project. The Village had several segments of sanitary sewer inspected by television and found them to be in poor condition with structural defects. These deficiencies are a likely allowing excess infiltration to enter the system. In general, the project consists of the following: 1) Removal of approximately 1,107 linear feet (LF) of 6 inch (6") sanitary sewer and replacement with new 8 inch (8") sanitary sewer and appurtenances, 2) Four (4) sanitary sewer spot repairs to remove defects impacting the structural integrity of the sewer main and/or affecting the installation of cured in place pipe (CIPP) liner, 3) Installation of approximately 1,853 LF of 8" CIPP liner, and 4) Grout lining of all existing sanitary manholes in the project area. Only temporary interruption of service is expected to occur for sewer users affected as the liner pipe is installed. Conventional sewer replacement will involve trenching and total replacement of the existing main with new PVC sewer, in addition to pavement restoration and overlay associated with the sanitary sewer work.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment. The project will result in continued wastewater treatment of Prague's sewage flows with a lower risk of blockage or high infiltration and inflow, which could result in backups of untreated sewage into Village homes.

The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is currently listed on the CWSRF SFY2021 Intended Use Plan and ranked with 75 points on the CWSRF priority list. Prague's 2012 median household income is \$49,375, with an AWIN score of 12 (moderate sustainability risk) which qualifies Prague for 50.0 percent CWSRF principal forgiveness (capped at \$150,000, dependent on availability of funds). Loan forgiveness would be matched with a 20-year CWSRF loan at a current program interest rate of 0.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.5 percent of the loan balance would be assessed each year

Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the loan. Current residential sewer user rates are a flat rate of \$17.50 per month. The Village of Prague has approximately 180 residential and commercial sewer connections. Sewer rates would need to be raised by \$5.81 per month to cover the proposed CWSRF debt service and 10 percent coverage requirement. This would raise the average sewer rate up to \$23.31 per month.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act review specified in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and the NDEE has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared. The project as proposed is solely directed toward rehabilitation of the existing sanitary sewer. 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, properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas as wetlands, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, significant fish or wildlife habitat, and floodplains
- 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.

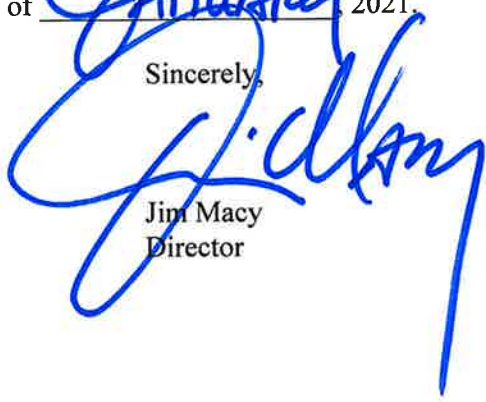
The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of exclusion, the state determines that the proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes 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 Andrew Klescewski, Review Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-4260 or email: andrew.klescewski@nebraska.gov. Additionally, comments

may be directed to Burton Pflueger, Program Specialist, of the State Revolving Fund Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-1883 or email: burton.pflueger@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 13th day of January 2021.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

JM/amk

Attachments: Distribution List
Maps

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST

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