



Pete Ricketts, Governor

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 Environmental Quality (NDEQ) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Force Main Construction along 164th and Dakota Avenue to C Avenue

APPLICANT: South Sioux City, Nebraska

COUNTY: Dakota County

POPULATION: 13,353 (2010 Census)

CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317988

NDEQ ID No.: 65775

TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$1,498,200

ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,486,000

The city of South Sioux City is located in Dakota County in northeast Nebraska, next to the Missouri River and across from Sioux City, Iowa. The 2010 census population for South Sioux City was 13,353. That is an increase of 12 percent from the year 2000, indicating a growing community.

Jim Macy, Director

Department of Environmental Quality

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The South Sioux City sanitary sewer system includes about 40 miles of sewers and 15 lift stations. Their wastewater is pumped under the Missouri River for treatment at the Sioux City, Iowa regional wastewater treatment facility.

In 2008, South Sioux City developed the Roth Industrial Park (250 acres) which is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Interstate 129. A lift station and force main pumped flow from the Roth Industrial Park into a 30-inch gravity sewer on Dakota Avenue and North on C Avenue. The sewage flowed east on E 39th street in a 36-inch sewer, which conveyed flow into the Bennet lift station. There are two other businesses and approximately 40 residences which are connected to the sewer as well. The Bennet lift station pumps flow across the Missouri River to the Sioux City, Iowa regional wastewater treatment facility. The Roth Industrial Park lift station, the collection system, the Bennet lift station and the force main which conveyed flow to the Sioux City, Iowa regional wastewater treatment facility was funded by a special grant (EPA Project No. XP98747201) and a CWSRF Loan. A FNSI and Environmental Assessment were public noticed in order to support the funding.

In September, 2016, the Big Ox facility located in the Roth Industrial Park went into operation. The Big Ox Energy facility accepts flow from BPI, Richardson Milling, and CHS Manufacturing. Each of these industries has a discharge permit issued by the City of Sioux City, Iowa and City of South Sioux City, Nebraska. Big Ox Energy has agreements with each of these industries to accept their waste provided it meets the limits set forth in the City Ordinances and the discharge permits issued by the City of Sioux City. The City of South Sioux City Economic Development Department is working with another industry to potentially locate a facility within the Roth Industrial Park that would also send their waste to Big Ox Energy. Big Ox Energy has assured the City that their system has the capacity to meet the needs of the new industry. The Big Ox wastewater treatment process consists of two anaerobic digesters, a lift station and 12-inch force main that pumps flow into the 30-inch gravity sewer on Dakota Avenue. The lift station at Big Ox Energy has a total capacity of 4.23 mgd and includes two 2100 gpm pumps.

In November 2016, a significant amount of hydrogen sulfide was detected in the residences that were connected to the 30-inch gravity sewer. Inhabitants from these residences had to be evacuated and relocated in area motels. Home owners, the City and Big Ox Energy are currently disputing the cause of hydrogen sulfide in the residences. In December, 2016; the City constructed a temporary lift station and 4560-feet of 16-inch force main. Construction of the 16-inch force main is considered as phase 1. Two pumps

are being used to pump the flow from a manhole located in the 30-inch sewer located on C Avenue in order to isolate the flow from Big Ox Energy and pump flow into the Bennet lift station. This arrangement allows the Big Ox Energy wastewater to be isolated from the gravity sewer that serves the residences. In February 2017, one of the pumps connected to the temporary lift station failed and flow from Big Ox Energy backed up into a road ditch.

The proposed project Phase 2 consists of construction of 8560 feet of 16-inch force main which will connect to the Big Ox Energy lift station via the existing 12-inch force main on Dakota Avenue. The proposed force main will connect to the 16-inch force main already in place. The new 16-inch force main will be constructed within an existing utility easement approximately 5 feet north of the existing 30-inch gravity sanitary sewer (between Dakota Ave and C Ave), and it will be constructed approximately 30 feet east of the existing 30-inch gravity sanitary sewer (along C Ave). The lift station at the Big Ox facility has the capacity to pump peak flow directly into the Bennet lift station. This arrangement will isolate the high strength industrial flow from the residential flow and there by provide relief to the residents whose health has been affected due to air quality problems.

South Sioux City has applied for Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Emergency Loan Assistance to install a 16-inch force main. The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) as per provisions for emergency funding outlined in the SFY2017 Intended Use Plan (IUP). South Sioux City 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 1.0 percent of the outstanding principal balance would be assessed each year. South Sioux City will pledge revenues from the combined utility for repayment of the CWSRF loan. Residential sewer users in South Sioux City currently pay \$34.68 per month on a water use of 5,000 gallons.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment since the proposed construction will address the public health hazard that citizens in South Sioux City have had to deal with for the past several months.

The review did not indicate a significant environmental impact would result from the proposed action. The project is located outside the 500 year flood plain of the Missouri 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 sanitary sewer main is outside 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.

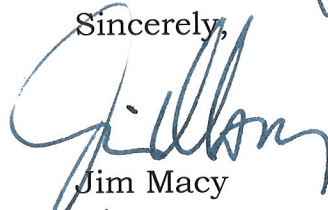
The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if,

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 NDEQ. 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 Buddy Bhadbhade, Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEQ, who can be reached at (402) 471-4207 or email: gautam.bhadbhade@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 27th day of February, 2017.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

JM/gb

Attachments: Distribution List
 Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST

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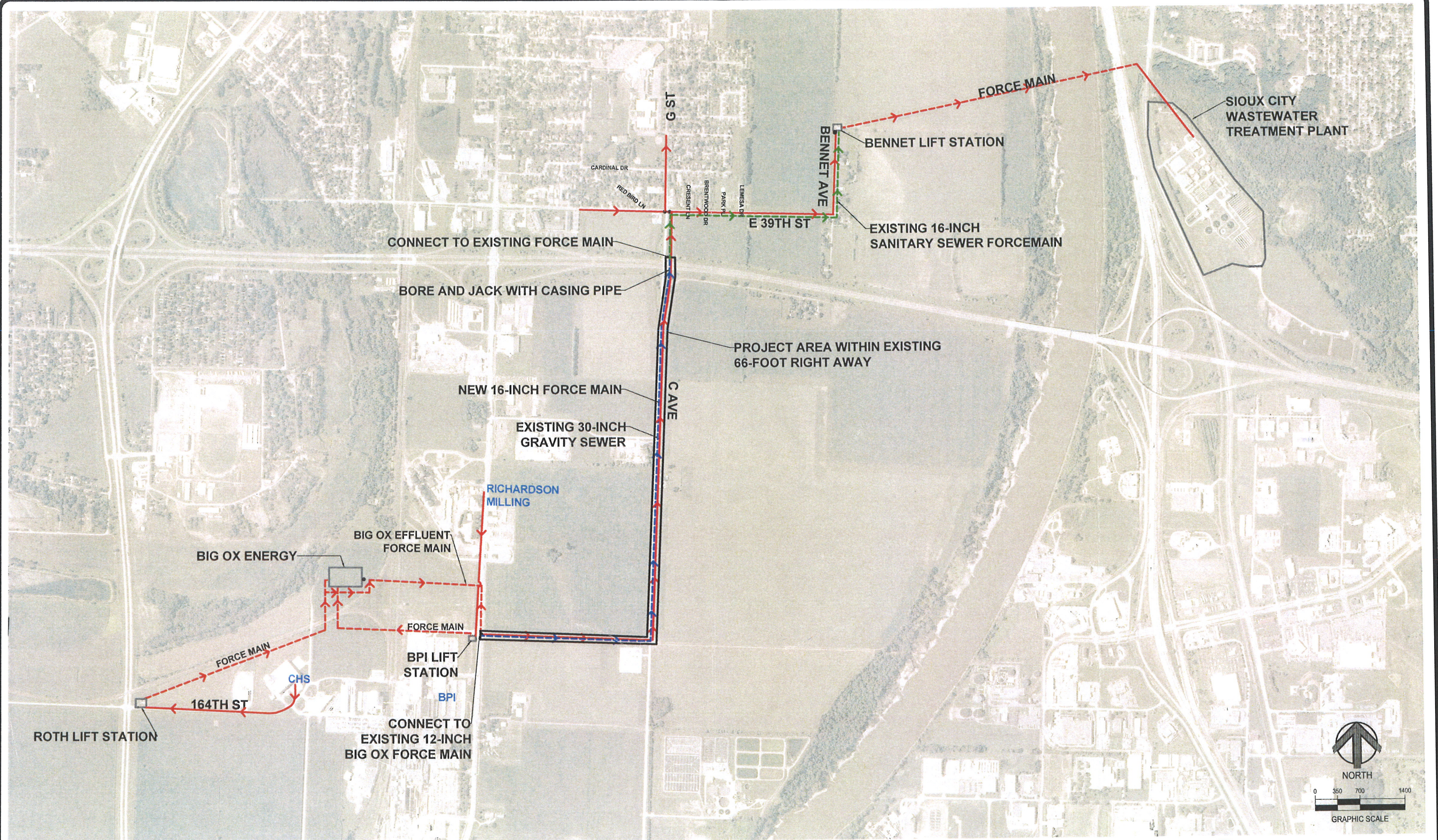
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**SOUTH SIOUX CITY INDUSTRIAL FORCE MAIN
NOVEMBER 2016**

