



DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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 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: Replacement of Water Meters
APPLICANT: Coleridge, Nebraska
COUNTY: Cedar
POPULATION: 473 (2010 census)
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311645
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$200,000
ESTIMATED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$200,000

The Village of Coleridge, Nebraska, is planning to replace 264 old water meters in their Public Water System. The Village has applied for financial assistance through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program to build the project. Coleridge has a permit issued to operate a public water supply system by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179.

According to the DWSRF Priority Ranking System this project is considered to be a low priority, and was included on the Priority Planning List in the State Fiscal Year 2020 Intended Use Plan (IUP). The installation will consist of an upgrade to automatic radio read meters, and thus are categorically eligible for funding under the Green Project Reserve. The project achieves the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy for the upgrade and/or replacement of existing infrastructure.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment. Less gasoline will be used compared to a traditional direct meter reading route and replacing old meters will help in providing a better assessment of the water losses and/or unaccounted for water within the Public Water System, which may result in conservation by the system. The project will also help minimize operation costs for the Village through less labor required to read water meters.

The Village is eligible for a 20-year loan at a green project reserve interest rate of 1.25 percent per the criteria listed in the IUP, based upon the Village's Median Household Income level. In addition to principal and interest, an annual administrative fee of 0.5 percent of the loan balance will be assessed.

The Village's water rate, which will be pledged to repay the loan, is currently \$3.00 per thousand gallons used per month. That equates to an average residential water bill of \$24 per month based on a common household water use of 8,000 gallons. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) for the project is \$12,322. Half of that amount will be billed twice a year in semi-annual installments. Based on 264 active service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised \$4.28 to pay for the project.

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 Department 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 a replacement of existing water service meters. 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, floodplain, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, 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 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 (NDEE) 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, or Steve McNulty, Review Engineer, of the Engineering Services Section of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, who can be reached at (402) 471-1006 or email: steve.mcNulty@nebraska.gov. or John Danforth, Project Manager, of the Financial Assistance Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-3373 or email: john.danforth@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 8th day of November, 2019.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

JM/tsf

Attachments: Distribution List
Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
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APPLICANT:
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CONSULTING ENGINEER:
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(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

Google Maps Coleridge



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