



## DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

### AMENDMENT OF A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DATED JULY 12, 2016

**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 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 encourages public input in this decision-making process.

**PROJECT NAME:** New Well and Transmission Main Improvements  
City of Aurora, Nebraska

**DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:** D311623

**ESTIMATED PROJECT AMOUNT:** \$902,000

**PROPOSED LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT:** \$180,400

The City of Aurora has applied for funding for the above-referenced project through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program jointly administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). This project has been ranked as a high priority project and is included on the Planning List in the DWSRF State Fiscal Year 2018 Intended Use Plan (IUP). Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEQ, the City was determined to be eligible for a DWSRF loan with corresponding loan forgiveness capped at 20% of project costs.

Aurora is located in eastern part of Nebraska, at the intersection of State Highways 14 and 34, to the north of Interstate 80. The community has a population of 4,479 according to the 2010 census. Aurora has been issued a permit to operate a public water system (PWS) under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179.

In March 2016, the City's Engineer completed a design report that evaluated the siting of a new well with transmission main. The PWS at that time consisted of five municipal wells, a 300,000 gallon water storage tower and a distribution system. In October 2013, monitoring of Aurora's most recently drilled Well No. 2005-1 detected Nitrates at 10.2 mg/L, and subsequent

quarterly monitoring showed results ranging between 9 mg/L and the drinking water standard of 10 mg/L. Three of the remaining wells are older than the average life of PWS supply well in the State. All of those observations supported Aurora's decision in 2016 to construct a new well for a sustainable water supply. The DWSRF financed that project, with Nitrates measured at 1.54 mg/L in the new supply well. Since that time, two other wells have exceeded the drinking water standard, with 10.2 mg/L and 11.4 mg/L monitored at Well Nos. 99-1 and 56-1, respectively. Moreover, the community was issued a violation for Nitrates above the drinking water standard in August of 2017. Thus, the City is proposing a new well located approximately 2,500 feet west of Well No. 2016-1. A benefit of locating the wells north of town in an undeveloped area, will more easily allow for treatment, should Nitrate levels continue to increase regionally.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. All indicated that the project would either have no affect or concerns, or iterated their programs permitting requirements. The permits that need to be acquired include the new well being registered with and a transfer permit obtained from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a new well construction permit will be required from the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District (NRD). A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater permit will be required by NDEQ if more than one acre of land is disturbed and a floodplain permit through the local administrator.

The City is eligible for a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 2% on 80% of the project costs (i.e., 20% will be forgiven). In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.58% of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from Aurora's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF debt service (including 10% coverage) is \$52,906. Aurora's current water rate for a typical residential connection is \$12.75 per month for the first 3,000 gallons of used, with an additional \$2 use charge for every 1,000 gallons of water furnished thereafter. That equates to a water bill of \$22.75 per month, based on a common household water use of 8,000 gallons. With 1,987 services, household rates may need to be raised approximately \$2.25 to address the new debt service.

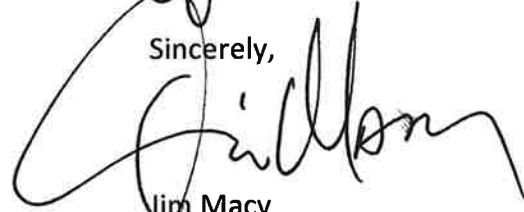
A Public Hearing was held May 22, 2018 to discuss the new well project and the potential impacts to existing water rates, with 41 days advanced posted notice. A presentation of the proposed project was made by the Mayor, including the project's estimated cost. No comments were made by the public.

The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the PWS maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in April of 2016, wherein no deficiencies were noted. That completed survey was the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. The City then completed an Initial TFM Assessment in February of 2017. A Final TFM Assessment will be performed by DHHS, to ensure Aurora's capabilities in meeting the requirements of the act. Further, while their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 13, above the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance, their score was due to Nitrates. As noted, this project is needed to address those long-term concerns.

No significant environmental impacts have been identified that would result from the proposed action. All necessary permits for construction or discharges will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (e.g., DNR, NRD, etc.). Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the original FNSI, the engineering report and other supporting data that are on file with NDEQ. All are available for public review upon request. The NDEQ will not take any administrative action on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date shown below. Persons having a comment on this determination are encouraged to submit directly to Steve McNulty at 402 471-1006 or email [steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov](mailto:steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov) of DHHS, or David Lathrop at 402 471-4252 or email [david.lathrop@nebraska.gov](mailto:david.lathrop@nebraska.gov) of the Water Permits Division of NDEQ.

Signed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018.

Sincerely,  


Jim Macy  
Director

Attachments:     Distribution List  
                         Map

FNSI DISTRIBUTION LIST  
AURORA, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Office of Public Affairs  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
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STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
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Lincoln, NE 68508

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John Moeschen  
State Program Manager  
US Army corps of Engineers  
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8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

APPLICANT  
Rick Melcher, City Administrator  
City of Aurora  
905 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Aurora, NE 68818

CONSULTING ENGINEERS:  
Michael Schultes, P.E.  
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.  
308 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 1  
Grand Island, NE 68801-5941

LOCAL NEWSPAPER  
Aurora News-Register  
PO Box 70  
Aurora, NE 68818-0070

UPPER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
John Turnbull, Manager  
105 Lincoln Avenue  
York, Nebraska 68487



2018  
 WATER SUPPLY WELL #7  
 AURORA, NEBRASKA

**HORIZONTAL SURVEY CONTROL - ASSUMED**

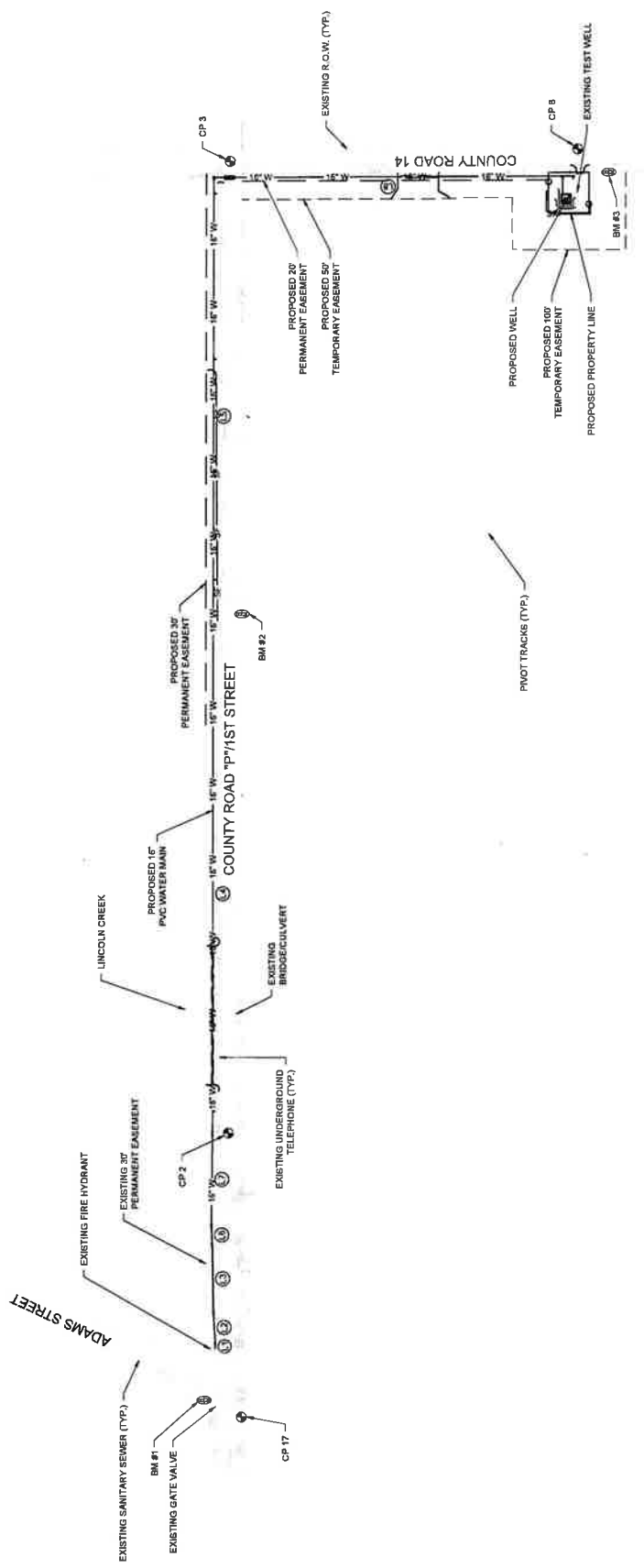
POINT NAME	NORTHING	EASTING	LONG DESCRIPTION
CP-1	37421.01	38823.18	24" 10" ALUMINUM CAP W/4 SEC. 33-711-H-R/W
CP-2	40564.38	38552.50	24" 10" ALUMINUM CAP W/4 COR. SEC. 33-111-H-R/W
CP-3	40116.48	38602.82	5" 8" REBAR NORTH SIDE CO. RD. 14
CP-17	36647.19	38683.24	5" 8" REBAR E/C CORNER 1ST AND ADAMS STREET

**BENCHMARKS - NAVD 88**

POINT NAME	NORTHING	EASTING	ELEVATION	LONG DESCRIPTION
BM-1	35693	38562	1771.24	TOP NUT FIRE HYDRANT SW CORNER 1ST AND ADAMS STREET
BM-2	38837	38617	1775.62	TOP OF 600 CHAIR WAILS WEST FACE POWER POLE ON EAST SIDE OF COUNTY ROAD P
BM-3	40037	38588	1785.08	TOP CP 600 CHAIR WAILS WEST FACE POWER POLE 187 POLE EAST OF WELL SITE ON SOUTH SIDE OF COUNTY ROAD 14

**16IN TRANSMISSION MAIN ALIGNMENT**

NUMBER	R	DELTA	LENGTH	LINECHORD DIR	START STATION, N. E.	END STATION, N. E.	P. I. N. E.
L1			15.17	N01°26'37"W	0+00.00, 38630.54, 38558.39	0+15.17, 38645.71, 38563.01	
L2			85.42	N04°38'59"W	0+15.17, 38645.71, 38598.01	1+00.59, 38935.84, 38582.14	
L3			192.86	N02°13'55"W	1+00.59, 38935.84, 38882.14	2+93.45, 37113.67, 38675.01	
L4			54.18	N02°51'03"W	2+93.45, 37113.67, 38675.01	3+47.63, 37167.72, 38571.37	
L5			252.28	N02°28'42"W	3+47.63, 37167.72, 38571.37	5+99.91, 37420.00, 38598.19	
L6			1306.43	N01°10'09"W	5+99.91, 37420.00, 38598.19	18+96.45, 38726.16, 38542.54	
L7			1286.38	N01°10'09"W	18+96.45, 38726.16, 38542.54	31+82.83, 40022.27, 38516.09	
L8			847.81	N89°22'15"E	31+82.83, 40022.27, 38516.09	41+40.64, 40043.71, 38463.66	



**PROJECT INFO**  
 SHEET: 6/02018  
 DRAWN BY: S-H/STI-WELLS-AS  
 FIELD BOOK: AUCR0818  
 FIELD CORN: A.G.  
 SURVEYED: 06/11/17  
 PROJECT: WATER SUPPLY WELL #7  
 CLIENT: AUCR0818  
 PROJECT LOCATION: AUCR0818  
 PROJECT NUMBER: AUCR0818  
 PROJECT DATE: 6/11/17

**GRAPHIC SCALE**  
 0 75 150 300  
 UNIT OF MEASURE IS FEET

**C1.1**

**18 ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS, INC.**  
 Know what's Below.  
 Call before you dig.