



**Pete Ricketts**  
Governor

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
**Jim Macy**

Director

Suite 400, The Atrium

1200 'N' Street

P.O. Box 98922

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

Phone (402) 471-2186

FAX (402) 471-2909

website: <http://deq.ne.gov>

## 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 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: Replacement Well and Controls  
Village of Pleasanton, Nebraska  
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311596  
PROPOSED PROJECT TOTAL: \$360,734  
PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$30,987  
PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN: \$329,747

The Village of Pleasanton 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, Division of Public Health (DHHS) and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). This project has been ranked as a high priority project and is included on the Funding List in the DWSRF State Fiscal Year 2015 Intended Use Plan. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEQ, the Village was determined to be eligible for a DWSRF loan with corresponding loan forgiveness capped at 8.59% of project costs. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS on June 24, 2013, wherein two deficiencies were noted and corrected by the system as of July 11, 2013. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. The City will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TFM Assessment by the DHHS, to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and wherein that assessment(s) will be uploaded to the project file. Lastly, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

Pleasanton is located in the central part of Nebraska on State Highway 10, north of the City of Kearney. The community has a population of 341 according to the 2010 census, which has slightly declined over the past decade. Pleasanton 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 December 2013, the Village's Engineer completed a Preliminary Engineering Report that evaluated Pleasanton's water system needs. The PWS consists of three active municipal wells, an elevated 100,000 gallon water storage tower, and a distribution system. One of the system's wells is nearly 60 years in age, well past the expected service life, and was recommended for replacement. Furthermore, another one of the remaining wells has an elevated level of radium-228 at 4.40 pCi/L, which presently remains below the drinking water standard of 5 pCi/L. But due to the combination of both issues, this replacement well project will ensure that the Village can provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water to its residents.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous federal and state agencies for environmental impacts. The majority of responses indicated that the project would have no effect or impact, was unlikely to have any impact, adverse or otherwise, or should have no potential to adversely affect. Two other agencies indicated it was not subject to its jurisdiction or offered no objections.

The National Park Service noted that the connecting water transmission main would cross onto Pleasanton Park where an existing well is located. However, that water main will be buried below ground and thus no area of the park will be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources indicated the project lies within the floodplain; therefore, a permit will be required from the local floodplain administrator. The new well will be registered with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and a construction permit will be required from the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater permit will be required by NDEQ if more than one acre of land is disturbed. The well will be installed on land owned by the Village.

The Village is eligible for a 20 year loan at an interest rate of 2 percent on 91.41% of the estimated project costs (i.e., 8.59% will be forgiven). In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from Pleasanton's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$25,684. Pleasanton's current water rate for a typical residential connection is \$23 per month, with a \$1.60 user charge for every 1,000 gallons of water furnished. That equates to a water bill of \$36 per month based on a common household water use of 8,000 gallons. Based on 193 active service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised \$11 to address the new debt service, to approximately \$47 per month. A loan term up to 30 years is also available that would potentially reduce water rates to \$44.50 per month.

A Public Hearing was held on January 13, 2015 by the Village Board on the proposed new well project with at least 30 days advanced posted notice. The project was discussed by

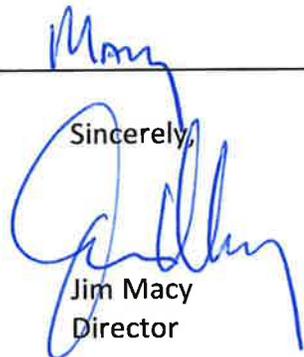
the Board with their engineer present and there were no comments received from Village residents in attendance and no other input was received from the public.

The project is determined by DHHS to help Pleasanton maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The infrastructure investment in a Replacement Well is in line with the stated goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy. No significant environmental impacts have been identified that would result from the proposed action. All necessary permits for construction or waste discharges will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (i.e., local floodplain, NDNR, NRD, NDEQ, etc.), if necessary. 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 environmental assessment, the preliminary engineering report and supplement to that report, and other supporting data that are on file with NDEQ. The latter are available for public review upon request and the environmental assessment is attached. 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.mculty@nebraska.gov](mailto:steve.mculty@nebraska.gov) of DHHS, or John Danforth at 402 471-3373 or email [john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov) of the Water Division of NDEQ.

Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy  
Director

Attachments: Environmental Assessment  
Distribution List  
Map