



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 (DWSRF) 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 Environment and Energy (NDEE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Replacement Well for G-108335 (Well 73-1)
Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks, NE
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311659
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$786,844

The Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks has applied for funding of the above-referenced project through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program jointly administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health (DHHS) and the NDEE. No federal dollars will be disbursed to the District, just funds from DWSRFs repaid account. The noted water supply well is showing signs of deterioration and has operated 10 years past the average life of community supply well in Nebraska. According to the Priority Ranking System in the 2021 Intended Use Plan (IUP), this project is considered to be low priority, and was included on the planning list of projects. The project was determined to be eligible for a DWSRF loan assistance once the bypass date of January 1, 2021 has passed.

The Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks is located in eastern Nebraska, off of Highway 50, south of Springfield, NE. The Public Water System (PWS) consists of two municipal supply wells, an elevated 75,000-gallon water storage tower, and a distribution system. The system's current primary well was drilled in 1990. With the District's old well reaching the end of its useful life, a new well will be drilled in the general vicinity of the water tower.

The proposed project was reviewed by State agencies for environmental impacts. The majority of the agencies responding indicated there would be no adverse impact or no affect. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission identified that habitat for the northern long-eared bat and western prairie fringed orchid is present in the proposed vicinity. Although neither is anticipated to be present at the specific site of the proposed well, the conservation measures noted by the commission will be followed.

The District is eligible for a 30-year loan at an interest rate of 0.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.5 percent of the principal balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks' water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$35,316. Based on 88 active service connections, household rates may need be raised just over \$33 to pay for the new debt service, to a rate \$70 per month.

A Public Hearing was held October 28, 2020, during which the Engineer discussed project details and the expected impact to user rates. Comments were offered and discussions held, but there were no objections. The hearing was advertised 31 days in advance.

The District has a permit to operate a PWS under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179. 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 in January of 2018, wherein no deficiencies were noted. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. The District will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TFM Assessment, to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

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, NDEE, DHHS, 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 engineering report and other supporting data that are on file with NDEE. All are available for public review upon request. The NDEE 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 of the DHHS, or Sarah Frey at (402) 471-4266 or email sarah.frey@nebraska.gov of the State Revolving Fund Section of NDEE.

Signed this 22nd day of December, 2020.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Environmental Assessment
Distribution List
Map

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

A. Project Identification:

Applicant: Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks

Project No.: D311659

City: Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks **County:** Sarpy **State:** NE

Estimated Project Cost: \$786,844

B. Community Description:

Location: The Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks is located in eastern Nebraska, off of Highway 50, south of Springfield. The system's current primary well was drilled in 1990. With the District's old well reaching the end of its useful life, a new well will be drilled in the general vicinity of the water tower.

Population: From a review of the available information, the community has experienced a fairly stable population over the past decade with 88 current residences.

Current Water System Facilities: Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks' PWS consists of two municipal supply wells, an elevated 75,000-gallon water storage tower, and a distribution system. The wells pump directly into the distribution system with no chemical addition.

- C. Project Description:** Should a test well confirm an acceptable yield, a new supply well will be drilled in the northwest corner of the District, at the site of the system's water tower. The proposed installation will also include new automatic controls and a backup generator.

D. Alternatives Considered:

Alternatives considered were:

1. No project
2. Construct a new well

Evaluation and Selection of the Alternative: If no project were constructed, should Well No. 73-1 fail, the District would be left with only one active supply well. Per State regulations, Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks must provide to its residents a supply of safe drinking water on a continuous basis. As Well No. 73-1 is past its expected design life and PWSs typically operate with more than one well to both alternate operation and for a backup in case of emergencies (e.g., pump failure, etc.), it is commendable that the District is proactively replacing its aging deteriorating infrastructure.

E. Environmental Impact Summary:

Primary:

Construction: Temporary impacts caused by construction include noise and dust, a limited potential for soil erosion, and fuel/oil spills. The District will make an application to the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District for a well construction permit. The new well will be registered with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. A construction permit will be obtained from the Engineering Services Program of Department of Health and Human Services.

Environmental: The construction contracts will require that the contractors return the area to its original or better condition. The area required for the wellhouse will be minimal, and will have little, if any, effect on area species.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous State agencies for environmental impacts. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission identified that habitat for the northern long-eared bat and western prairie fringed orchid is present in the proposed well site vicinity. Although neither is anticipated to be present at the specific site of the proposed well, the conservation measures recommended will be followed.

Financial: An application for DWSRF loan assistance has been received for the project to fund the new water well. The total estimated project cost is \$786,844. The District is eligible for a 0.5 percent, 30-year loan on eligible project costs. If executed, the community will have an annual DWSRF debt service of \$7,798, which includes a ten percent coverage that is required on all loans. Included in that amount is an administrative fee of 0.5 percent on the principal balance that will be assessed each year. The revenues from Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks' water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. Based on 88 active service connections, household rates may need be raised just over \$33 to pay for the new debt service, to a rate \$70 per month. An assessment of costs and revenues will be conducted after completion of the project, but following present billing procedures residents could make semi-annual payments of \$420.

Secondary:

Population Impacts: The new well is not primarily needed for future growth, but to replace an aging and deteriorating supply well. The improvements will be reasonably sized to accommodate predicted population trends.

Land Use and Trends: The location of the proposed well is in the northwest corner of Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks, with approximately 50 feet of the water main to the District's elevated storage tower. The wellhouse will be on land that was previously disturbed through the construction of that water tower. All water mains will be placed below ground at a depth where they will not interrupt any

planned practices. The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office review noted that no historic properties will be affected.

Environmental: Minimal solid waste generated by the project will be disposed of in a licensed landfill. No safety, vibration, noise or aesthetic considerations were identified other than the normal noise and disruptions associated with water main and well construction.

Environmental Justice: The proposed project will not produce any environmental justice concerns. All structures will be placed in areas previously disturbed and the services provided by the new well will be available to everyone in the District, equally. No segments of Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks' population are impacted disproportionately from related effects.

Mitigation measures necessary to eliminate adverse environmental effect: Proper construction techniques will be utilized to minimize soil erosion and other potential impacts of construction. An NPDES permit for stormwater runoff associated with construction activity and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be required by NDEE, if more than one acre of land will be disturbed. The community can designate the general contractor as the authorized representative on the stormwater permit notice of intent submitted to the NDEE. Authorization of stormwater runoff from the construction activities must be in place prior to commencing construction.

Irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources: The resources committed to the project include the equipment, materials, and energy used in construction.

F. Measures Taken to Ensure Environmental Soundness:

Public Involvement: A Public Hearing was held October 28, 2020, during which the Engineer discussed details of the project and the expected impact to user rates. The hearing was advertised 31 days in advance.

Public Opposition or Opinions: Comments were made and discussions held on the proposed project, but there were no objections.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:

Facility Planning: Water System Design Summary, JEO Consulting Group, Inc., August 2020

Federal: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, October 9, 2020, email

State: NE Department of Natural Resources, October 23, 2020, memorandum
NE Game and Parks Commission, October 28, 2020, email
NE State Historic Preservation Office, October 27, 2020, letter

Consulting Engineers: JEO Consulting Group, Inc., Lincoln, NE

Public Groups: Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks Residents

- G. Positive Effects to be Realized from the Proposed Project:** The proposed well will allow Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks to maintain compliance with the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and ensure future water availability. New well test kit data to show water quality will meet NDHHS-DPH Title 179 standards, Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems will be required. The project is reasonable, not contrary to conservation or the public welfare, and is a beneficial use of groundwater by the Sarpy County SID 79 - Meadow Oaks.
- H. Reasons for Concluding there will be no Significant Impacts:** Review of the engineering report and supporting information indicates that the proposed project will result in no significant impact on the environment. State agencies reported no impact will result for threatened or endangered species or historical resources, so long as conservation measures are followed. All necessary permits for construction have been or will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (i.e. NRD, DHHS, NDEE, etc.), as necessary.



Reviewing Engineer

12/16/2020
Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DISTRIBUTION LIST
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2700 Fletcher Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504

LOCAL NEWSPAPER:
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604 Fort Crook Road North
Bellevue, NE 68005-4557
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT:
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8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this FNSI has been distributed to this list electronically via email instead of physically via a mailed document.

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