

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

A. Project Identification:

Applicant: City of Wayne
Project No.: D311643
County: Wayne **State:** NE
Total Project Amount: \$3,030,000
DWSRF Loan Forgiveness Amount: \$454,500
DWSRF Loan Amount: \$2,575,500

B. Community Description:

Location and Population: The City is located in northeastern Nebraska, situated to the northeast of the City of Norfolk along Highway 35. According to the 2010 Census, there is an estimated population of 5,660 people, which is remaining stagnant.

Current Water System Facilities: Wayne's public water system consists of seven wells, two of which are emergency wells. There is a booster pump station and a standpipe on the west side of town. There is a hydro-pillar on the east side of town.

C. Project Description: The City currently has one transmission main that connects the existing water supply wellfield to the west standpipe. This is an aging transmission main that failed in 2017 and is in suspect condition. The proposed project includes the construction of approximately six miles of water transmission main from the existing water supply wellfield south along County Road 575 Avenue to the west water storage tank. An additional extension from the main will be made for one-fourth of a mile to better loop the system and serve existing customers. The proposed transmission main will be redundant to the existing transmission main that is one mile east of the proposed main.

D. Alternatives Considered:

Two alternatives studied were:

1. No project; or
2. Construct six miles of water transmission main from the existing water supply wellfield to the west standpipe

Evaluation and Selection of the Alternative: The City is currently reliant on a single transmission main that transports water from the wellfield to the standpipe. This main experienced a failure in 2017 and is in suspect condition. No project would result in the City relying on an aging transmission main that supplies all of the water for the City. Therefore, another failure in the transmission main would result in the City not being

able to ensure the residents are provided with a supply of safe drinking water on a continuous basis. By constructing the proposed six miles of redundant water transmission main between the wellfield and the west standpipe, the City will be able to provide a water supply to its residents on a continuous basis.

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. A construction permit will be obtained from the Engineering Services Program at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Environmental: The construction contracts will require that the contractors return the area to its original or better condition. All of the land area to be disturbed during construction will be City owned, within road right of ways, or was previously disturbed. No portion lies within the 100-year flood plain.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. All responses were positive in that they indicated that the project would likely have no affect or no adverse impacts, was cleared of any significant concerns, or offered no objections. The Department of the Army noted the applicability of their Section 404 permit requirements, should it be determined that fill material would be placed into Waters of the U.S. Typically during project design, activities can be planned to avoid fill placement, such as directional drilling of a water main installation. Regardless, if necessary, a Section 404 permit from Department of the Army will be obtained if filling activity in the Waters of the U.S. will take place.

Financial: An application for a DWSRF loan has been received for \$3,030,000 to fund the system improvements. The City is eligible for 15% loan forgiveness, resulting in a loan amount of \$2,575,500. The City is eligible for a 20-year loan with an interest rate of 1.5% plus an administrative fee of 0.5% on the outstanding principal balance assessed annually. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is estimated at \$178,501. The revenues from City's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. Wayne's water rate for a typical residential connection is \$20 per month with a \$1.75 use charge for every 1,000 gallons of water furnished thereafter. That equates to a water bill of \$28.75 per month, based on a household water use of 5,000 gallons. Based on 1798 active service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised \$8.27 to address the new debt service, to approximately \$37 per month. Following construction, the City will make a final assessment of revenues and cost to determine what rate adjustments are necessary.

Secondary:

Population Impacts: The new water transmission main will ensure that all City residents have access to a safe supply of drinking water, on a continuous basis. The population of Wayne has mostly remained stagnant, and the proposed main is adequately sized for future population estimates.

Land Use and Trends: All new water mains will be placed below ground at depths that will not interrupt any planned practices. The Wayne Municipal Airport is located approximately 2.06 miles east of the project. However, the Department of Transportation – Division of Aeronautics does not anticipate that the proposed project will impact Wayne Municipal Airport's airspace.

Environmental: The proposed project will have no effect on the availability of water quantity in the area as it is not expected to impact the production capacity of the existing wells. The minimal amount of solid waste generated by the project will be disposed in a licensed landfill. No safety, vibration, noise or aesthetic considerations were identified other than the normal noise and disruptions associated with water main construction. The construction site is within the range of the federally and state-listed threatened Northern Long-Eared Bat; however, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has determined that the proposed project will have "No Effect" on state-listed endangered or threatened species.

Environmental Justice: The proposed project will not produce any environmental justice concerns. All water mains will be placed in areas previously disturbed, on City owned property or in road right of ways, and the services provided by the proposed project will be available to everyone in the City, equally. No segment of the district's population is 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. Traffic flow may be affected by construction when water main construction is being done along the City and rural road right-of-ways; however, safety control measures (i.e., signs, etc.) will be implemented. An NPDES Construction Stormwater permit for runoff associated with construction activity and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be required by NDEE for this project if more than one acre of land is 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 activity 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 August 6, 2019, with 33 days advanced posted notice. A presentation of the proposed project was made by the Engineer, including potential impacts of the debt service to the City.

Public Opposition or Opinions: There were no comments from the public.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:

Federal: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, June 6, 2019, letter

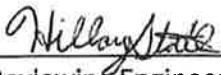
State: Nebraska Department of Transportation – Division of Aeronautics, June 4, 2019, letter
Nebraska Game and Parks, June 18, 2019, letter
Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency, May 28, 2019, e-mail

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

Public Groups: Wayne Residents

G. Positive Effects to be Realized from the Proposed Project: The project will allow Wayne to maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and ensure future water availability. The construction of a new transmission main that is redundant to an aging transmission main achieves the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protections Agency's Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy for the upgrade and/or replacement of existing infrastructure. As such, the project is considered reasonable, not contrary to conservation or the public welfare and is a beneficial use of resources by the City.

H. Reasons for Concluding there will be no Significant Impacts: Review of the evaluation report and supporting information indicates that the proposed project will result in no significant impact on the environment. Federal and State agencies reported no impact will result to state listed endangered or threatened species, floodplain, or aeronautics in the state. All permits for construction will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (e.g., NDEE, etc.), if necessary.



Reviewing Engineer
9/27/19

Date

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