



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 Environment and Energy encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: City of Wayne 2019 Water Transmission Main
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311643
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$3,030,000
PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$454,500
PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$2,575,500

The City of Wayne 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 Environment and Energy (NDEE). This project has the City included on the Funding List in the DWSRF State Fiscal Year 2020 Intended Use Plan. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEE, Wayne was determined to be eligible for DWSRF loan assistance.

The City is located in northeastern Nebraska, situated to the northeast of the City of Norfolk along Highway 35. Wayne 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.

Currently, the City of Wayne has one 16-inch water main along County Road 15 that is the only connection between the distribution system and wellfield located six miles north of the City. The proposed project is to construct an additional 16-inch transmission main from the existing wellfield north of Wayne to the standpipe located on the west side of town. The

project is designed to provide redundancy and improve reliability for the transmission of water from the wellfield to the City.

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 effect or no adverse impacts, was cleared of any significant concerns, or offered no objections. In addition, all necessary permits will be obtained prior to project construction, including but not limited to a Section 404 permit through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, if impacts to the Waters of the U.S. cannot be avoided during design.

The City is eligible for a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 1.5 percent on the estimated project costs. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.5 percent of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from the system's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$178,501. The current 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 approximately \$8.25 to address the new debt service, to \$37 per month.

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.

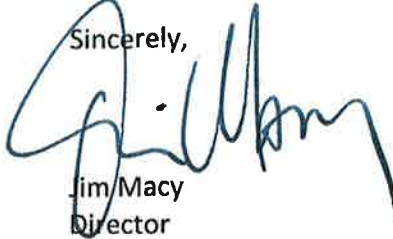
The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in December of 2017. No deficiencies were found during the routine sanitary survey. The sanitary survey indicated that a new transmission line was an intended capital improvement project.

The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the PWS maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The infrastructure investment in constructing approximately six miles of a new transmission main that will be redundant to the existing, aging main 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 (e.g., NDEE, 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 evaluation report and other supporting data that are on file with NDEE. The latter are available for public review upon request and the environmental assessment is attached. 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 Hillary Stoll at (402) 471-4252 or email hillary.stoll@nebraska.gov or John Danforth at (402) 471-3373 or email john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov of the Water Permits Division of NDEE.

Signed this 18th day of October, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Macy". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a cursive "Macy".

Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Environmental Assessment
Distribution List
Map