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STATE OF NEBRASKA

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CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM (CWSRF)

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Clean 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 funded wholly or in part 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: U.V. Wastewater Disinfection System
APPLICANT: Village of Spencer
COUNTY: Boyd
POPULATION: 455
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317363
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$149,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$149,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS: \$74,500

The Village of Spencer, Nebraska, in Boyd County is planning an upgrade to their wastewater treatment facility. The city has applied for financial assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program to build the project.

Spencer operates an extended aeration wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located approximately 0.5 miles east of the community. Wastewater flows to the facility by gravity via a 12-inch sewer main to the lift station, which includes a comminutor. Other treatment units include an aeration basin, and a final clarifier. The WWTP has been occasionally out of compliance with its NPDES Permit but is within its design flows.

Spencer's NPDES permit issued on June 22, 2013, included an effluent limit on E. coli (maximum of 126 per 100 milliliters monthly geometric mean) during the annual disinfection season of May 1 to September 30. Currently, the WWTP does not have disinfection facilities. The NPDES permit also included a compliance schedule for construction of a disinfection system. The effluent discharges to Ponca Creek, segment NI1-10200 in the Niobrara River Basin.

This project will add a UV disinfection unit following the existing final clarifier. The project consists of the construction of a new ultraviolet wastewater disinfection system and controls; cast in place concrete disinfection structure; piping, fittings, valves, manholes, effluent pump and controls, telephone alarm dialer, portable pump, portable generator, associated electrical work, earthwork and

site work. The system will be capable of disinfecting a peak hourly flow of 190 gallons per minute or 280,000 gallons per day. Through the transmittance of ultraviolet light into the effluent from UV lamps submerged in the wastewater channel, bacterial and viral cellular genetic material are destroyed in the wastewater thereby preventing cell reproduction. The system is complete with waterproof and grounded UV equipment, bulbs, monitoring equipment, cleaning and storage racks. The UV System configuration consists of 2 banks, 2 modules per bank, and two lamps per UV module.

The project will have a positive public health impact on the environment. The project will result in the discharge of disinfected wastewater to Ponca Creek during the recreation season. . No areas outside the wastewater treatment plant boundaries will be disturbed.)

The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is included in the planning list of the FY2014 Intended Use Plan. Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the loan. Average residential sewer use rates are \$15.00/month. Total hookups for the sewer system are 254 residential and commercial customers. Sewer rates would need to be raised by \$18.00 per month to cover the debt service due to this project.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act review specified in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and the Department has determined that this project is eligible for categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared. The project as proposed is solely directed toward minor upgrading on the same property as existing facilities.

Justification for granting the categorical exclusion:

- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans.

- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of an exclusion, the state determines that the proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project; or new evidence reveals that serious local or environmental issues exist; or Federal, state, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken on the basis of careful review of the application and other supporting data, which are on file in the office of the NDEQ. These are available for public review upon request. Persons having a comment on this categorical exclusion determination are encouraged to submit such comments directly to Gautam Bhadbhade, Review Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEQ, who can be reached at (402) 471-4207 or email: gautam.bhadbhade@nebraska.gov

Signed this 2nd day of October, 2013.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Linder
Director

MJL/gmb

Attachments:

Distribution List
Maps

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
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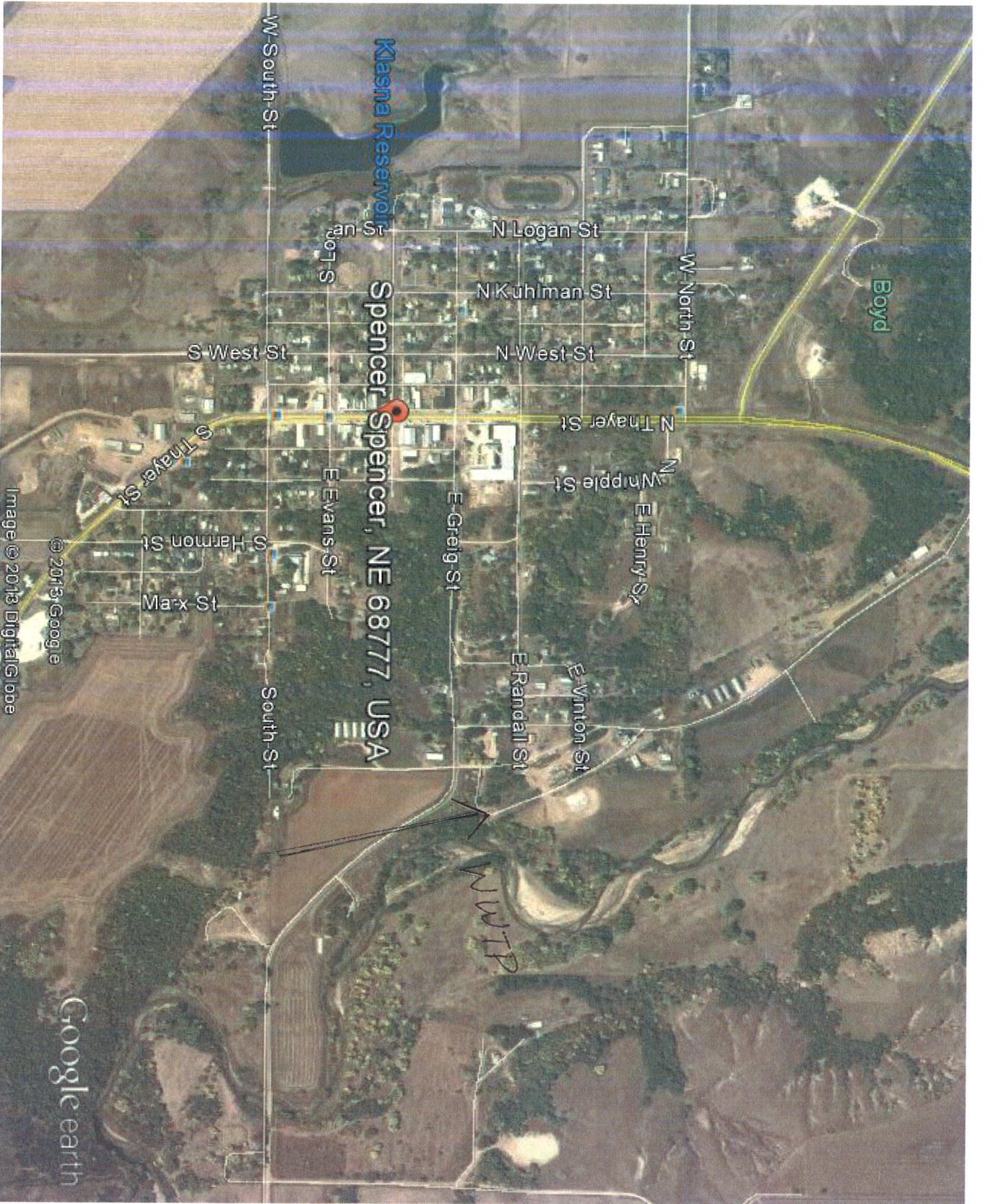
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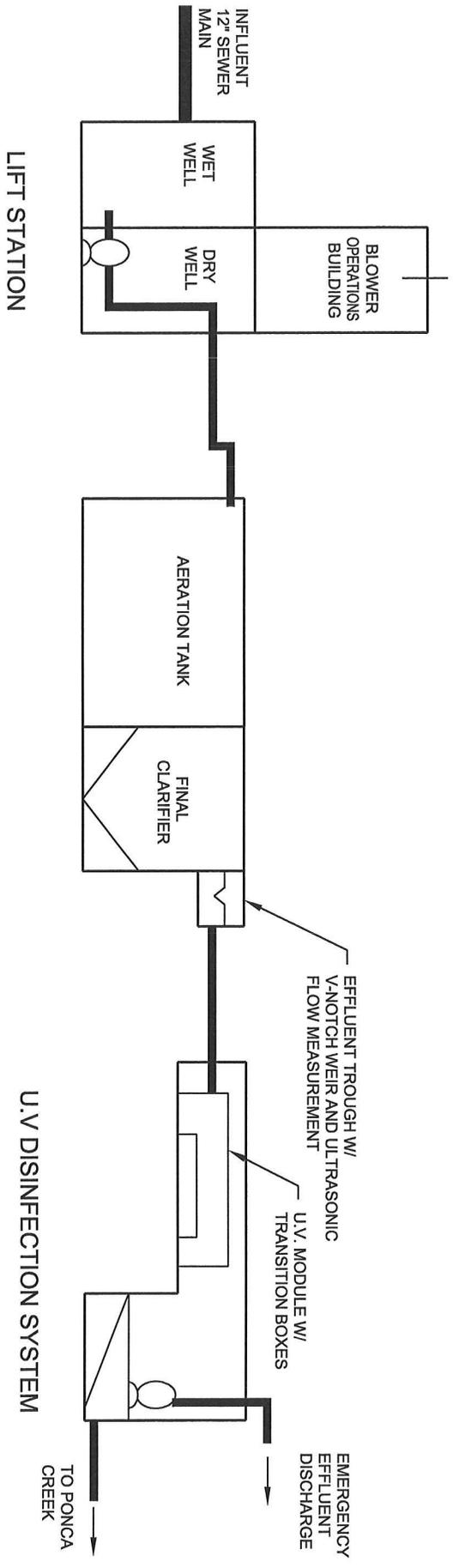


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SPENCER WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY FLOW SCHEMATIC