



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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 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: Water Tower Rehabilitation
APPLICANT: Wood Lake, Nebraska
COUNTY: Cherry
POPULATION: 63 (2010 Census)
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311583
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$125,000
ESTIMATED PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$43,750

The Village of Wood Lake has applied for funding, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program jointly administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), to rehabilitate its water tower. Wood Lake has 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. The PWS has received numerous Total Coliform Rule violations over the past several years due to detections from distribution system monitoring, and has now been issued a Total Coliform Administrative Order (A.O.). A Water System Evaluation confirmed the need for a rehabilitation of the Village's 40,000 gallon water tower, including repair of roof eaves, interior and exterior repainting, as well as the installation of safety rails, ladders and a new access hatch. The project will likely permanently address the A.O. conditions as the system's supply wells, distribution system and service meters were recently replaced in 2002, leaving only the tower as a potential pathway for coliform contamination through infrastructure.

According to the Priority Ranking System this project is considered by the DHHS to be a high priority, and was included on the Priority Funding List in the DWSRF SFY 2014 Intended Use Plan (IUP). Based on supporting documentation on file, the project was determined to be eligible for a DWSRF loan with corresponding principal forgiveness and eligible for a categorical exclusion in accordance with IUP, State and Federal regulations.

The Village is eligible for a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 2.0 percent with increased forgiveness assistance of 35% of project costs, due to the issuance of the A.O. per the criteria listed in the IUP. In addition to principal and interest, an administrative fee of 1.0 percent of the loan balance will be assessed. The current residential water rate is \$20 per month with a usage rate of \$0.50 per every 2,500 gallons. That equates to an approximate water bill of \$22 per month, based on a common household water use of 10,000 gallons. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) for the project is \$6,330. Half of that amount will be billed twice a year in semi-annual installments. Based on 50 service connections, monthly household rates would normally have been raised \$10.55 to pay for the project. However, Wood Lake proactively raised the base monthly rate from \$11 to \$20 a month in 2011, in planning for the anticipated project. As such, only a comparatively minor \$2 per month rate increase may be needed. Following construction, the Village will make a final assessment of revenues and costs to determine if a further rate adjustment is even necessary.

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 a 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 rehabilitating the PWSs existing water tower. Justification for categorical exclusion includes:

- 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 as wetlands, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- There will be no new disturbance within any flood area.
- 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 project is determined by DHHS to help the Village return into compliance with the Total Coliform drinking water standard. The NDEQ shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of 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 Steve McNulty, DHHS at 402 471-1006 or email steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov, or John Danforth, Water Division of NDEQ at 402 471-3373 or email john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 20th day of February, 2014.

Sincerely,



Patrick W. Rice
Acting Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
WOOD LAKE, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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203 West Second Street
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LOCAL NEWSPAPER (Public Information Only)
Valentine Midland News
146 West 2nd Street
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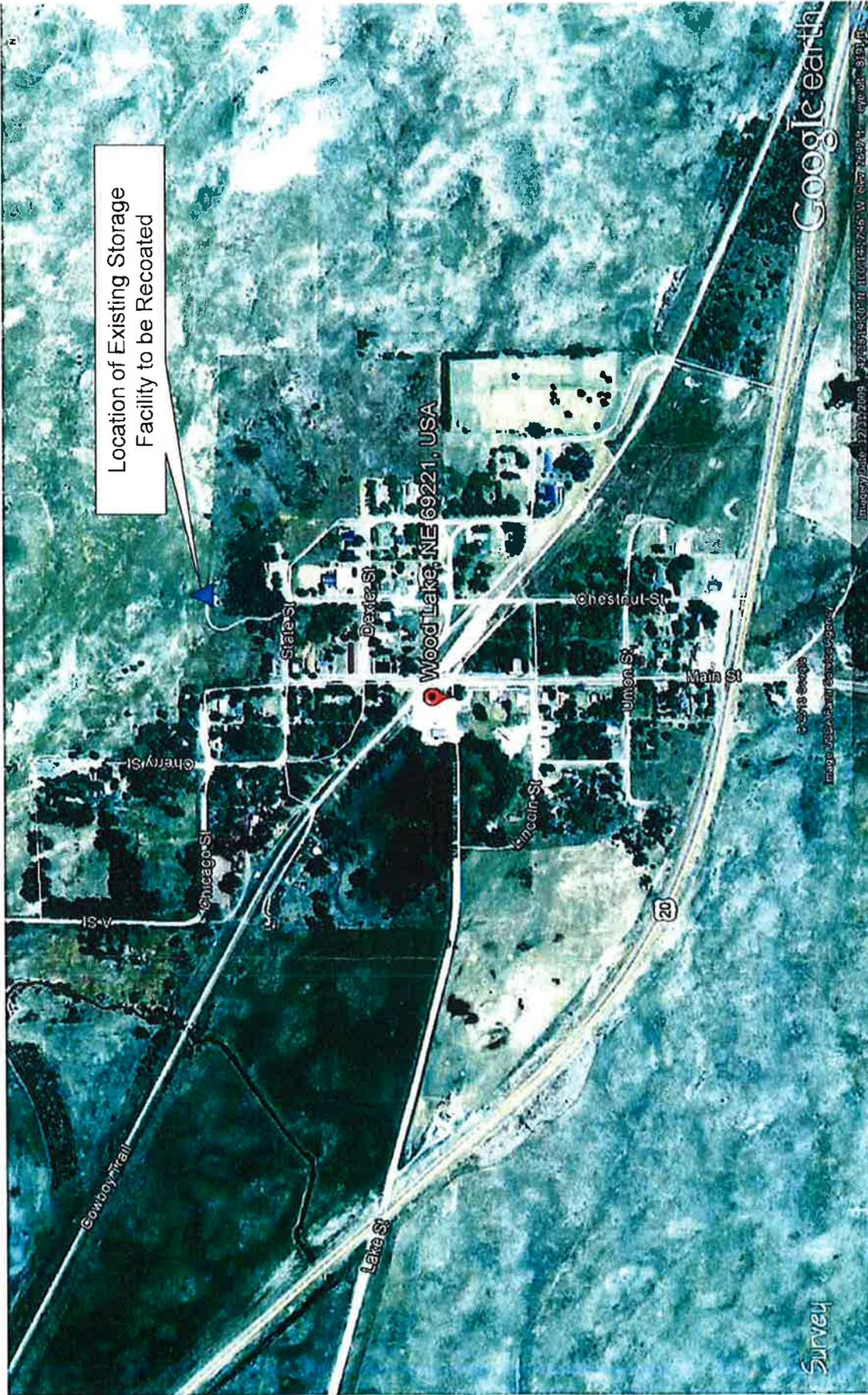
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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STATE CONSERVATIONIST
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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APPLICANT
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Village of Wood Lake
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Wood Lake, NE 69221-0778

MIDDLE NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES
DISTRICT
Mike Murphy, Manager
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Valentine, NE 69201



Location of Existing Storage Facility to be Recreated

Prepared By:



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CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.
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Map Legend
Existing Water Storage Facility.....▲



Village of Wood Lake
Water Improvements
Wood Lake, Nebraska

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