

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Beulah (Mercer County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380990-02

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has conducted a review of the proposed Lime Sludge Removal for the City of Beulah in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDoH has determined that this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion and is exempt from further substantive environmental review.

Because the proposed project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion, a full Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment will not be required. Following is a description of the proposed project and a brief statement of how the project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion.

Until recently, the City utilized a lime softening process water treatment plant which produced a significant amount of lime sludge as by-product. The lime sludge was pumped into the south wastewater pond system and has reduced the system's capacity to properly treat wastewater. In addition, as the lime sludge mixes into the wastewater, the treatment process is affected due to the change in pH caused by the lime. These factors have the potential to cause discharge permit violations into the Knife River.

The project will remove the lime sludge from the primary cell, which will bring the wastewater pond system back to its original capacity and allow for proper wastewater treatment. The lime sludge will be removed, stored, and dewatered before being disposed of in a licensed landfill or via land application. The proposed project will allow the south wastewater pond system to operate satisfactorily and prevent potential discharge permit violations.

The City of Beulah has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$345,000 to finance the project. The City has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely on City-owned property in and adjacent to the existing south wastewater ponds. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities.

The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer (Ref 18-0391 EPA) has concluded that no Historic Properties will be affected. It has been determined that exempting the proposed project from further review under the National Environmental Policy Act will not result in adverse impacts to the population or area of Beulah and Mercer County. The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the NDDoH, Division of Municipal Facilities.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Elizabeth Tokach Duran, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Health, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the 2nd day of July, 2018

David J. Bruschwein, P.E.
Director
Division of Municipal Facilities