

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Aneta (Nelson County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380873-01

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 3200023-04

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Water Replacement and Sewer Rehabilitation project for the City of Aneta in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDEQ 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. The following is a description of the proposed project and a brief statement of how the project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion.

The existing cast iron water mains and clay sewer mains are nearing the end of their useful life. The proposed project consists of removing and replacing the existing cast iron water mains and services and installing new PVC pipe. The vitrified clay sanitary and storm sewer mains will be rehabilitated by relining with cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP), which is a trenchless method of construction. Steel casing will need to be bored under the BNSF railroad tracks to allow for installation of the new water main and sanitary sewer main.

The proposed project will reduce the risk of emergency repairs to fix breaks and will bring the water and sewer systems back into good working condition.

The City of Aneta plans to apply for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$930,000.00 and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$1,570,000.00 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 within existing city street right-of-way or easements. Some work will also take place within NDDOT and BNSF right-of-way. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer has concluded that no historic properties will be affected by this project provided it takes place in the location and manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 23-5670). 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 Aneta and Nelson County.

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The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the NDDEQ, Division of Municipal Facilities.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Hristo Papalichev, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND 58503-1324.

Dated the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

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