

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Main Street Improvements Phase 1  
Beulah (Mercer County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380990-03

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 2900074-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Main Street Water, Sanitary, and Storm Sewer System Improvements project for the City of Beulah 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. Following is a description of the proposed project and a brief statement of how the project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion.

The proposed project consists of improvements to the watermain, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer along Main Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Northwest to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Northeast. The watermains were originally installed more than 80 years ago and have a history of breaks in recent years resulting from cracking and corrosion. The sanitary sewer is also more than 80 years old and is prone to backups caused by cracking, sagging, sedimentation build-up, and root protrusion. The storm sewer no longer performs adequately under even minor rain events due to age and condition. These infrastructure failures may result in damage to surrounding property and pose a risk to public health.

The proposed project will replace the aging water and sewer mains with new PVC pipe, manholes, water and sanitary services, and storm sewer infrastructure. These improvements will ensure the consistent and safe conveyance of the city's water, wastewater, and stormwater.

The City of Beulah plans to apply for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans of \$3,783,000 and \$1,425,000, respectively, to finance the project.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely within the alignment of the existing streets. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation

(2)

Officer has concluded that no historic properties will be affected by this project provided it takes place in the location and in the manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 21-6811). 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 NDDEQ, Division of Municipal Facilities.

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

Dated the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

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