

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Bismarck (Burleigh County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380909-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements for the City of Bismarck 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.

Currently, the Bismarck Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) stores the digested sludge produced during the treatment process as a liquid until it can be applied to cropland. Increasing biosolids production and shortened application periods due to wet weather and changing farming practices have resulted in the need to improve handling and storage of this material. In addition, the current chlorine disinfection of the effluent water from the facility is struggling to consistently comply with discharge limits. To combat this chlorine is added at additional points throughout the treatment process. This results in complications to the operation of other plant processes, resulting in the need to improve the disinfection system overall.

The proposed project involves the addition of a screw press unit and its associated components needed for dewatering the biosolids produced during the wastewater treatment process, as well as the construction of a new disinfection building, upgraded disinfection technologies, and improvements to the chlorine contact basin. These improvements will ensure the WWTP's continued ability to meet the wastewater treatment needs for the city of Bismarck.

The City of Bismarck has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$5,000,000 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 within the existing grounds of the wastewater treatment plant. 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 (ND SHPO Ref.: 20-5680). 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 Bismarck and Burleigh 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, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58501-1947.

Dated the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

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