

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECTS OF:   2025 Watermain Replacement  
Dickinson (Stark County), North Dakota

Lead Service Line Replacement  
Dickinson (Stark County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBERS: 4500242-02

4500242-03

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed 2025 Watermain Replacement and Lead Service Line Replacement projects for the City of Dickinson 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 projects consist of watermain and lead service line replacements throughout the City of Dickinson. The old watermain is constructed of cast iron and asbestos cement pipe which have reached the end of their useful life and are prone to watermain breaks. Pipeline breaks have the potential of introducing contamination into the distribution system and causing a disruption of drinking water service, including possible long-term lack of service. Lead service lines have the potential of releasing lead into drinking water causing a potential health risk, particularly to children. Replacement of lead service lines has become a priority throughout the United States due to the potential health risks from lead exposure in drinking water. These projects will replace identified lead service lines with lead-free materials from the watermain into the residence structure. By completing replacement, the risk of lead exposure will be significantly reduced.

The proposed projects will replace existing cast iron and asbestos cement watermain with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe, as well as replace lead service lines with high density polyethylene (HDPE) lines. These improvements will greatly reduce the potential of contamination from entering the drinking water distribution system by reducing the amount of watermain breaks.

The City of Dickinson has applied for two Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans to finance the projects. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

These projects are being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely in the alignment of previously disturbed areas. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer would concur with a determination of "No Adverse Effect" for these projects provided replacement pipes for existing lines do not move the existing building penetrations more than two feet. If any existing penetrations need to move more than two feet or if there are any new service lines, a project representative shall notify the ND SHPO office for further review as there are historic buildings included in these projects (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0094). It has been determined that exempting the proposed projects from further review under the National Environmental Policy Act will not result in adverse impacts to the population or area of Dickinson and Stark 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 Danielle Peltier, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.

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