

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Gardner (Cass County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380961-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed addition to the Wastewater Treatment Improvements for the City of Gardner 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 addition 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 addition consists of improvements to the deteriorated wastewater lift station and check valve manhole components in the City of Gardner. The current lift station is showing signs of significant deterioration. The equipment within the lift station is past its useful life. Improvements include replacing pumps, pump bases, hardware, valves, and controls for the lift station. These enhancements will restore system reliability.

The City of Gardner has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$955,000 to finance the entire project. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

This project addition is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely within the existing wastewater lift station and check valve manhole structures. 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 occurs in the place and manner described in the documentation (ND SHPO Ref.: 22-6158). 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 Gardner and Cass 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 Shawn Martin, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 4th day of December, 2023.

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