

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Sand Hill Water Tower Improvements
New Town (Mountrail County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 3100744-04

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Sand Hill Water Tower Improvements project for the city of New Town 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 proposed project consists of improvements to the water storage facilities located in the city of New Town. The project will also include booster station pump rehabilitation and water treatment plant pump upgrades. The current ground storage reservoir is nearing the end of its useful life and developing external leaks. The city has also had complaints of low water pressure throughout certain sections of the city.

The proposed project will replace the current ground storage reservoir with an elevated water tower. The elevated tower will help address the water pressure concerns, as well as the needed replacement of the current aging infrastructure.

The city of New Town has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan 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 on previously disturbed land. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The Three Affiliated Tribes - MHA Nation Tribal Historic Office has reviewed the survey of the Area of Potential Effect and offers a determination of No Historic Properties Affected. 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 New Town and Mountrail County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project and provided instructions to apply for a Section 404 permit, if required (NWO-2021-01685-BIS). 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 St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated Mar. 19, 2026.

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