

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: 2023 Street and Utility Improvements  
New Town (Mountrail County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380907-01

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 3100744-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed 2023 Street and Utility 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. 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 watermains, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer in the portion of town east of Highway 1804. The majority of utilities in this area have been in place since the 1950s and are showing signs of failure. There have been numerous breaks in the watermains and services. The sanitary sewer has many serious issues including cracks, sags, debris build-up, and collapsing manholes. The storm sewer is also in poor condition with heaved and broken pipes throughout the area. These issues have caused increased water loss, disruption of service, and flooding. If not addressed, they will continue to be a financial burden on the city and its residents; and pose a risk to the surrounding environment and public health.

The proposed project will replace watermains and services, sanitary sewer mains and services, and storm sewer pipes throughout the project area. These improvements will ensure the continued safe and effective conveyance of the city's drinking water and wastewater and provide adequate management of stormwater.

The City of New Town has applied for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans of \$3,638,000 and \$1,437,000, respectively 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 in the alignment of the existing street right-of-ways. No previously undisturbed areas will

be affected by the construction activities. The Three Affiliated Tribes – MHA Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the survey of the Area of Potential Effect and offers a determination of No Historic Properties Found. 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 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, 4201 Normandy Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

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