

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Sawyer (Ward County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 381045-01

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Sanitary Sewer Improvement District No. 2023-1 project for the City of Sawyer 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 sanitary sewer system throughout the City of Sawyer. The existing system causes a risk to the community and the environment due to its age. Recent inspection of the pipe has shown significant deterioration. Infiltration and inflow (I/I) are major issues that cause increased stress and strain on the city's wastewater system. Groundwater entering the system through I/I carries sand and sediment which can cause sewage backups into residents' homes and damage to wastewater pumps.

The proposed project will rehabilitate sections of the sanitary sewer system using a trenchless technology called Cured-In-Place-Pipe (CIPP). CIPP "relines" the existing sewer main and replaces the structural integrity of the pipe. This project will reduce I/I of groundwater into the system and restore system reliability.

The City of Sawyer plans to apply for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$480,000 to help finance the \$898,000 project.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely within the existing sanitary sewer system. 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 takes place in the location and manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 23-0586). 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 Sawyer and Ward 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 27th day of November, 2023.

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