

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Williston Regional Water Treatment Plant  
DeviceNET & Sludge Pump Improvements  
Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWSA)  
Williams County, North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 5301686-02

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Williston Regional Water Treatment Plant DeviceNET & Sludge Pump Improvements project for the Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWSA) 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 Williston Regional Water Treatment Plant. The project will include the replacement of equipment including four motor control centers, lime slaker control panels and three sludge pumps. All of the equipment listed above is currently outdated and requires continual maintenance.

The proposed project will positively impact northwestern North Dakota and its surrounding areas by improving infrastructure within the water treatment plant for the citizens being served. The improvements will allow the WAWSA to continue to provide reliable quality drinking water, as well as making residents less dependent on lower quality ground water resources.

The WAWSA has obtained 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 entirely within the existing water treatment plant. 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 in the manner described in the documentation and

provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0312). 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 Williams County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. NWO-2003-60528-BIS) and determined that a Section 404 permit is not required.

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 Mitch Murray, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2025.

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