

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Annexation Area Watermain Expansion Phase 2
Grand Forks (Grand Forks County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 1800410-07

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Annexation Area Watermain Expansion Phase 2 Project for the City of Grand Forks 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 City of Grand Forks has annexed land north of the city where users in the area are currently served by a rural water provider. The city is required to provide potable water service without reusing the existing water mains due to a land purchase agreement. In addition, infrastructure will be brought into compliance with municipal design standards. The proposed project consists of expanding the city's drinking water service into the annexed areas with new water main, valves, hydrants and services.

The City of Grand Forks plans to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to finance the project.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely in previously disturbed areas. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with the determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" provided it takes place in the location and in the manner described and that all borrow comes from an approved source. (ND SHPO Ref.: 22-6288). 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 the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks 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 Aaron Wellman, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 24th day of June, 2025.

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