

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As required by guidelines for the preparation of environmental impact statements, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project: 2021 System Improvements – Phase II
McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District (MSRWD)

Location: McLean and Sheridan Counties, North Dakota

DWSRF Project No.: 2801400-04

Total Cost: \$11,262,347

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this project was originally published on March 17, 2022 in the McClusky Gazette and McLean County Independent. A FONSI amendment was published on May 22, 2025 in the McClusky Gazette and McLean County Independent. The project area has changed for a second time and the FONSI is being amended.

This FONSI amendment is for the rerouting of five miles of rural water pipe and will add eight new users to the MSRWD rural water system. The purpose of these improvements is to improve water quantity and quality for users in the rural water service area. This project will ensure that MSRWD can continue to serve existing and new residents throughout McLean and Sheridan Counties.

MSRWD has obtained a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to finance the project. The rural water district has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

The project will primarily disturb agricultural land during the installation of rural water pipe. For a further discussion of this see Item V, Environmental Impacts of Proposed Project in the Environmental Assessment document. Wetlands, area flood plains, threatened or endangered species habitat, or archeological sites will not be adversely impacted. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office would concur with a “No Adverse Effect” determination for the proposed project provided site features such as buildings or foundations are avoided in sites 32ML1532 and 32ML1547, provided the project takes place in the manner and location as described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0033). All other sites, features, and buildings described in Class III Cultural Resource Inventories report are to be avoided.

The review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an environmental impact statement has been made. This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the engineering report, environmental information document, and other supporting data which are on file in the Municipal Facilities Division of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Bryan R. Schmitt, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

After evaluating the comments received, the agency will make a final decision; however, no administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Dated the 13th day of August, 2025

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