

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: Lead Service Line Identification & Replacement

Customer: City of Minot

Location: Minot (Ward County), North Dakota

SRF Project No.: 5100660-03

Total Cost: \$29,575,000

The proposed project is for identification and replacement of lead service lines. There are currently more than 7,500 service lines made of unknown materials in the City of Minot. Replacement of lead service lines has become a priority throughout the United States due to the potential health risks from lead exposure in drinking water. By completing the replacement of lead service lines, the risk of lead exposure will be significantly reduced.

The City of Minot has obtained a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$29,575,000 to finance the project. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

The project site will be located in previously disturbed areas within the City of Minot. 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 concurs with the determination of "No Adverse Effect" for this project provided the replacement of pipes for any existing lead service lines do not move the existing building penetrations more than two feet. If any existing penetrations need to move more than two feet or if there are any new service lines, ND SHPO shall be notified for further review as there are historic buildings included in this project. A map must also be included for any proposed movement of service line locations. This determination only applies for the locations submitted as part of the May 30, 2025, review request and associated January 30, 2026, Class I areas (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0271). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project

(ID No. NWO-2024-00354-BIS) and determined that a Section 404 permit is not required unless any dredge or fill material is discharged into waters of the United States.

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 that are on file in the Municipal Facilities Division of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.

The 2026 construction year of the Minot Lead Service Line Identification & Replacement project is considered NHPA cleared, granted the replacement piping does not move the building penetration location more than 2 feet from existing penetrations. Section 106 is separate from the NEPA and this does not exclude future phases/years of this project from Section 106 review. The Section 106 concurrence is valid only for the listed phase/year. Each additional year of the project will require cultural resources review to meet the requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The City of Minot is required to contact the Review and Compliance team at the State Historical Society of North Dakota annually for additional reviews as project phases develop.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Mitch Murray, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy St., 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 10th day of April, 2026.

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