

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: 11th Avenue NW and Dacotah Homes & 2nd Avenue SW Watermain Replacement
City of Minot (Ward County), North Dakota

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 5100660-04

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed 11th Avenue NW and Dacotah Homes & 2nd Avenue SW Watermain Replacement for the City of Minot 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 drinking water distribution system within the City of Minot. The drinking water distribution system in the project area consists primarily of cast iron pipe and is beyond its useful life. Aging cast iron pipes are subject to frequent watermain breaks and water quality issues. This project will provide new drinking water distribution piping thus reducing maintenance costs and improving drinking water quality.

The City of Minot has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$3,246,000 to finance a portion of 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 in the utility easements and city streets. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer (ND SHPO) has concluded that no historic properties will be affected by this project provided replacement pipes for any existing lead service lines do not move the existing building penetrations more than 2 feet. If any existing penetrations need to move more than two feet or if there are any new service lines, ND SHPO would need to be notified for further review as there are historic buildings included in the project area (ND SHPO Ref.: 25-0326). 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 Minot and Ward County. 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.

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 St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated Dec. 17, 2025.

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