



CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Clean Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

This information reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded wholly or in part through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, please provide them at this time. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Complete Retention Lagoon
APPLICANT: Cairo, Nebraska
COUNTY: Hall County
POPULATION: 785
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317996
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$1,253,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,218,000
LOCAL FUNDS: \$35,000

Cairo, Nebraska is located in Hall County. The 2010 census population of Cairo is 785. The Village of Cairo is served by a collection system, which consists of approximately 30,200 feet of 6-inch and 8-inch diameter VCP sewer main and 87 manholes. The Village of Cairo is served by the sanitary sewer collection system that serves nearly the total population of Cairo with the exception of 6 houses that still have septic tanks. The existing Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) which is located on the east edge of town was constructed in 1998.

The existing WWTF consists of a lift station and a three-cell controlled discharge lagoon system. Sewage flows by gravity through an 8-inch interceptor sewer through a comminutor into a wet well. Two pumps located in the adjacent dry well, pump sewage through a 6-inch diameter 4,300-foot long force main to a splitter box that is located west of lagoon cell #1 and #2.

Lagoon cell #1 and #2 serve as the primary treatment cells and are normally operated in the parallel mode. The wastewater passes through the primary cells into cell #3 which provides secondary treatment. Each of the three cells has a surface area of 5.3 acres. Effluent discharges via a 2,200-foot outfall line to an unnamed tributary to Prairie Creek. The existing lift station and the three cell lagoon system are in good condition and are not in need of repair or upgrade.

The current NPDES Permit was issued on June 19, 2013 and has an expiration date of June 30, 2018. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) conducted a Compliance Inspection of the WWTF on December 10, 2015. The inspection report noted that the WWTF has been in significant non-compliance with the current and past NPDES permit 14 times. NDEQ issued a Notice of Violation to the Village on January 11, 2016. The Village's consulting Engineer prepared a Facility Plan dated November 2016, that concluded that the existing WWTF was incapable of meeting the NPDES permit limits.

The existing WWTF was constructed in 1998. CWSRF funds were used to fund the project. The City had acquired approximately 50-acres of land to construct the existing 3-cell, 16 acre lagoon system. A Finding of No Significant Impact dated August 27, 1997 was issued by the NDEQ. The Village proposes to add two lagoon cells, each with a surface area of 5.7 acres, to the existing 3-cell lagoon system. The new cells will be located north of the existing three cells on land that was purchased in 1997. The new cells will be secondary cells and will be two feet deeper than the existing cells. The proposed 5-cell lagoon system is designed as a complete retention lagoon system.

The Village Engineer solicited comments on the proposed project from federal and state agencies. The Corps of Engineers informed the Village that the Village would need to obtain a 404 permit from the Corps in case waters of the state are impacted. A wetland delineation report was prepared by the Village consultant. The report concluded that less than 0.07 acres of wetlands would be impacted. The Village has applied for a 404-permit. A portion of the proposed project is located in the 100-year floodplain. The top of the lagoon dike elevation will be one-foot above the 100-year floodplain elevation. A floodplain permit has been acquired for the proposed lagoon expansion from the appropriate permitting authority. A public hearing for the project was held on October 10, 2017. There was no opposition expressed by the public at the hearing. The Village Board unanimously approved the construction of the proposed project. The proposed 5-cell lagoon system will provide reliable wastewater treatment and will not discharge effluent.

The Village has applied for financial assistance for the project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program. The project is listed on the planning list of the FY2018 Intended Use Plan and is eligible for CWSRF financing. Cairo is eligible for a 20-year CWSRF loan at the current program

interest rate of 1.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the outstanding principal balance would be assessed each year. The Village of Cairo has one existing CWSRF loan from 1999. This loan has a payoff date of December 15, 2019. The Village proposes to pay this loan off prior to initiation of operation of the proposed project. The current sewer use fee is a flat rate of \$36.00/month. Revenues generated from the existing sewer use fees will be used to repay the CWSRF loan. The existing sewer rates will generate sufficient revenues to pay for the debt service due to the proposed loan and to pay for the operation and maintenance of the sewer utility.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from the National Environmental Policy Act review specified in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and the Department has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared.

Justification for categorical exclusion includes:

- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric archeological or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas as floodplains, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of exclusion, the state determines that the proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project; or new evidence reveals that serious local or

environmental issues exist; or federal, state, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken on the basis of careful review of the application and other supporting data, which are on file in the office of the NDEQ. These are available for public review upon request. Persons having a comment on this categorical exclusion determination are encouraged to submit such comments directly to Gautam Bhadbhade, P.E, Environmental Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEQ, who can be reached at (402) 471-4207 or email: gautam.bhadbhade@nebraska.gov

Signed this 28th day of November, 2017.

Sincerely,


Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Maps

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(Public Information only, not for Public Notice)

PROJECT NO: 016-2209
DRAWN BY: DWL
DATE: 11/7/16

PLANNING AREA CAIRO WASTEWATER FACILITY PLAN

MOLSSON
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FIGURE
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PROJECT NO: 016-2209
 DRAWN BY: DWL

COMPLETE RETENTION LAYOUT
 CAIRO WASTEWATER FACILITY PLAN



201 East 2nd Street
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 Grand Island, NE 68802-1072

FIGURE

