



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 Environment and Energy (NDEE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME:	Sanitary Sewer Lift Station No. 1 Replacement
APPLICANT:	Bassett, Nebraska
COUNTY:	Rock
POPULATION:	619 (2010 census)
NDEE ID NO.:	57647
AWIN SUSTAINABILITY SCORE:	22 - high risk
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:	C318028
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT:	\$605,300
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT:	\$455,300
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS:	\$150,000

The City of Bassett is located in Rock County in north central Nebraska. The 2010 census population was 619. Bassett's lift station no. 1 is in need of replacement. A new packaged above-ground, valve access, lift station will be constructed over a new wet well. The existing gravity sanitary sewer will be adjusted to the new lift station along with the force main connection to the existing force main. Construction will include demolition of the existing lift station and the addition of a new standby power generator.

The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is currently found on the FY2020 priority list ranked at 61 points. Eligible costs includes engineering and inspection of the project, Bassett's 2016 median household income is \$44,620, which qualifies Bassett for a 20-year loan at a program interest rate of 1.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.5 percent of the loan balance would be assessed each year. Bassett's Assessing Wastewater Infrastructure Needs (AWIN) score is 22 and is considered a high-risk category which qualifies Bassett for CWSRF Loan Forgiveness. Bassett's median household income qualifies them for 44.87% matching principal forgiveness up to a ceiling of \$150,000. Forgiveness funds are dependent on availability at the time of loan closing.

Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the loan. Current residential sewer use rates are a metered rate of \$17.00 base plus \$2.75 per month per 1,000 gallons or \$30.75 for a typical winter water use of 5,000 gallons per month. The City of Bassett has approximately 406 combined residential and commercial sewer connections. Sewer rates would need to be raised by \$6.50 per month to cover the debt service and 10% coverage requirement. This would equate to an average

residential sewer rate of approximately \$37.25 per month for typical winter water use of 5,000 gallons per month.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment. The project will result in continued wastewater treatment of sewage flows with a lower risk of blockage or failure of the lift station no. 1, which could result in backups of untreated sewage into homes. The review did not indicate a significant environmental impact would result from the proposed action. Lift station no. 1 is not located in the designated 100-year flood plain for the City of Bassett. No wetlands, prime farmland, or recorded historical sites will be affected. No significant increases in noise levels or odors are expected. The project does not discriminate against any segment of the community's population nor suffers disproportionately from human health or environmental effects.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from 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 categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will not be prepared and this categorical exclusion is being issued. The project as proposed is solely directed toward replacement of the existing lift station.

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 wetlands, 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 not be inconsistent 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 about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy 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 NDEE. 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 Tom Fuenning, Review Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-4989 or email: [tom.fuenning@nebraska.gov](mailto:tom.fuenning@nebraska.gov) or Sarah Frey, Project Manager, of the Financial Assistance Section of NDEE who can be reached at (402) 471-4266 or email: [sarah.frey@nebraska.gov](mailto:sarah.frey@nebraska.gov).

Signed this 20th day of June, 2020.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Macy'.

Jim Macy  
Director

JM/tsf

Attachments: Distribution List  
Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST  
BASSETT, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND  
ENERGY

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
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STATE OFFICE OF POLICY RESEARCH

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Nick Chevance  
Environmental Coordinator  
Midwest Regional Office  
601 Riverfront Drive  
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Christopher Simmons/Kelly Beard-Tittone  
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Mail Code: WWPDWIMB  
Lenexa, KS

STATE CONSERVATIONIST

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

John Moeschel  
State Program Manager  
US Army corps of Engineers  
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Omaha, NE 68138-362

APPLICANT:

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PO Box 383  
308 E Hwy. 20  
Bassett, NE 68714-0383

ENGINEER:

Chris Miller, P.E.  
Miller & Associates  
1111 Central Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68847

LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Bassett Rock Co. Leader  
118 Clark Street  
Bassett, NE 68714

(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

UPPER ELKHORN NRD

301 N. Harrison Street  
O'Neill, NE 68763