



DRINKING WATER/CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM
AMENDMENT OF A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DATED AUGUST 21, 2018

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Drinking Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 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 (NDEQ) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Blending of Wells #1 and #2, Water Main Replacement, Generator and Test Wells – **Amendment adds water and sanitary sewer for 28th Street and Road 15 and SCADA instrumentation upgrade at the Wastewater Treatment Plant**

APPLICANT: City of Central City

COUNTY: Merrick

POPULATION: 2,934

DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311629

CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318013

NDEQ IIS NO. 57677

ORIGINAL DWSRF PROJECT AMOUNT: \$2,020,200

ORIGINAL DWSRF FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$404,040

AS BID WATER PROJECT AMOUNT WITH ADDITIONAL WATER MAIN: \$1,985,598

AMENDED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,489,199

AMENDED 25% LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$496,399

PROPOSED CWSRF PROJECT AMOUNT: \$191,766

PROPOSED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$95,883

PROPOSED 50% CWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS: \$95,883

On August 21, 2018 NDEQ issued a Categorical Exclusion to Central City for DWSRF funding for a safe drinking water project. The original project consisted of 3,000 feet of new water main to blend of wells no. 1 and 2, another 4,850 feet of water main replacement on 16th Street and 16th avenue, generator and test wells for the original total shown above. **The City of Central City has since open bids on the project and due to lower than expected costs have added additional work to the project. The additional work includes water main and sanitary sewer on 28th street and Road 15. In addition, SCADA instrumentation updating will be done at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The sanitary sewer and SCADA work will be funded from the CWSRF fund. Central City qualifies for 50% CWSRF loan forgiveness due to Central City's Median Household Income of \$40,638 and an AWIN moderate sustainability score of 11. Starting July 1, 2019 for the DWSRF program, loan forgiveness has been**

increased from 20 to 25% of eligible project costs. In addition, effective July 1, the annual interest rate will be reduced from 2.0% to 1.5% for DWSRF loan dollars. The annual administrative fee will also be reduced from 0.74% to 0.5% charged on the outstanding principal balance.

The current residential water rate is a base rate of \$11.66 for the first 10,000 gallons. The projected annual DWSRF debt service is **\$93,829 for a 20 year term**. Based upon the 1,308 active service connections, and a 10% coverage for delinquencies or loss of users, residential water rates may need to be raised approximately **\$6.58** per month to address the new debt service. However, a final assessment of any potential rate increase would be made by the City after the completion of the project. The current sewer fund revenue equates to approximately \$25.00 per user per month. The projected annual CWSRF debt service for a **10 year term is \$11,298** based on the same number of users and 10% coverage sewer rates may need to be raised by approximately **\$0.79** per user per month.

The amended 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 amended 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. **The amended project, as proposed, will be the construction of additional water main and sanitary sewer along 28th Street and Road 15 and upgraded instrumentation and controls at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.** 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, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- Based on a review of the available mapping, the project does not lie within the 100-year flood plain;
- 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 consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans.

The City has a permit to operate a public water system under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179. The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the public water system maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The City also has a NPDES Permit with the NDEQ for their sanitary sewer collection system and wastewater treatment facility. The sanitary sewer will serve a proposed new hospital and County museum.

The NDEQ 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 Cyril Martinmaas, DHHS at 402 471-0513 or email cyril.martinmaas@nebraska.gov, or Tom Fuenning, Water Permits Division of NDEQ at 402 471-4989 or email tom.fuenning@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 23rd day of July, 2019.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
CITY OF CENTRAL CITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

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LOCAL NEWSPAPER (Public Information Only)
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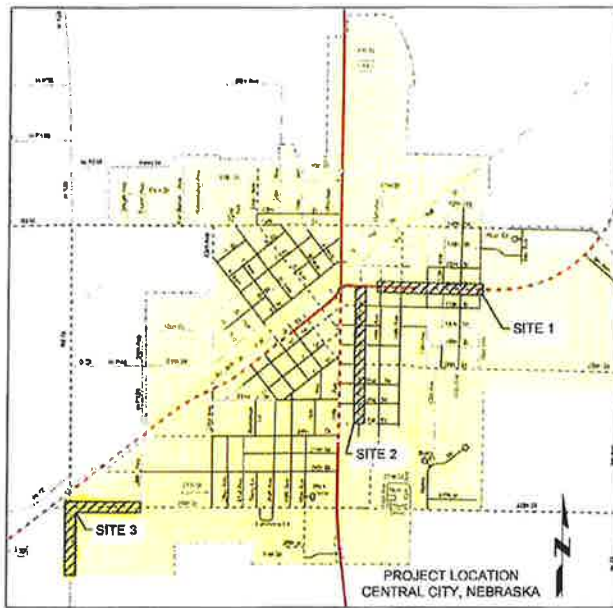
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2019 WATER, SEWER & PAVING IMPROVEMENTS



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