

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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, 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 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: Replacement Well
Marquette, NE
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311638
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$150,000
PROPOSED AMOUNT OF LOAN FORGIVENESS: \$37,500

The Village of Marquette has applied for funding for the above-referenced project through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program jointly administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health and the NDEE.

Marquette is located in Hamilton County, Nebraska. The population of Marquette is 229 according to the 2010 census data. The Village owns and operates a water system consisting of three active ground water wells to produce drinking water for the Village residents. The primary well 98-1 G-098143 is a vertical turbine well in a well house with an engine and driveshaft for backup power supply. This well has to be cleaned due to elevated iron and manganese about every two years. During the cleaning this year, the casing became separated right above the screen and started to produce large amount of sand. This well (east well) has been the primary well for water supply. The Village also has well G-061396 (west well) which is currently being used by the village for water supply. But this well has difficulty meeting demand in the summer due to drawdown issues. The third well (also named as South Well) was completed in 1950 and is only for emergency use due to the high level of nitrates and other contaminants.

The Village Board made a decision to drill a new well with generator hook ups south of the existing building. Since the new well is adjacent to the existing well, preliminary water quality from a test hole will not be completed, but a new well scan will be completed on the final well. The proposed new well system will provide 300 gpm as design capacity.

According to the Priority Ranking System, this project is considered to be a high priority and is included on the Planning List of eligible projects. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEE, the Village was determined to be eligible for a DWSRF loan with corresponding loan forgiveness

capped at 25% of project costs. Funding can be provided to the Village in accordance with the Intended Use Plan's bypass criteria, once the bypass date of October 1, 2019 has passed.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. All responses indicated that the project would have no adverse effect or had no objection. The new well will be registered with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and a new well construction permit will be required from the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater permit will be required by NDEE if more than one acre of land is disturbed. The well will be installed on land owned by the Village.

The Village is eligible for a 30-year loan at an interest rate of 1.5 percent on 75% of the estimated project costs (i.e. 25 % will be forgiven). In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.5 percent of the principal balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from Marquette's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$5,752. Marquette's current water rate for a typical residential connection includes a base rate of \$28.75 per month per meter with water use (exceeding 1st thousand gallon used) charged at the rate of \$2.75 per thousand gallons. That equates to an average water bill of \$39.75 per month, based on a common household water use of approximately 5,000 gallons. Based on 111 active service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised \$4.32 to address the new debt service, to an average \$44.07 per month.

The Village 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 system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in March of 2017, wherein no deficiencies were noted. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. The RWD will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TFM Assessment by the DHHS, to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, well below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the public water system maintain compliance. The infrastructure investment in a replacement wells are in line with the stated goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy. No significant environmental impacts have been identified that would result from the proposed action. All necessary permits for construction will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (i.e. NDNR, NDEE etc.), if necessary. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the environmental assessment, the draft preliminary engineering report and other supporting data that are on file with NDEE. All are available for public review upon request. The NDEE will not take any administrative action on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date shown below. Persons having a comment on this determination are encouraged to submit directly to Jian Li at 402 471-6571 or email jian.li@nebraska.gov of Technical Assistance Section of NDEE, or John Danforth at 402 471-3373 or email john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov of the Water Financial Assistance Section of NDEE.

Signed this 9th day of August, 2019.

Sincerely,


Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Environmental Assessment
Distribution List
Map