



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 Environmental Quality encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Water Tower Replacement and Distribution System Improvements
Village of Lindsay, Nebraska

DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311618

PROPOSED PROJECT TOTAL: \$1,650,500

PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,320,400

PROPOSED 20% DWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$330,100

The Village of Lindsay 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 Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). This project has been ranked at 90 points and was included on the Planning List in the DWSRF State Fiscal Year 2018 Intended Use Plan. Loan and loan forgiveness funding can be provided for the project in accordance with the Intended Use Plan's listed bypass criteria, as the bypass date of January 1, 2018 has passed.

Lindsay is located in northeastern part of Nebraska, situated in Platte County. The community has a population of 255 according to the 2010 census, which has slightly decreased over the past decade. Lindsay has been issued a permit to operate a public water system (PWS) under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179.

In May 2017, the Village's Engineer completed a Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) that evaluated Lindsay's water system needs. The PWS consists of three municipal wells, an elevated 50,000 gallon water storage tower, and a distribution system. The existing 50,000 gallon tower was constructed in 1928 and was inspected by Maguire Iron in 2015 and found

that the center riser pipe insulation package was beginning to collapse. The Engineer has recommended replacement since the tower is undersized and 90 years old. The proposed replacement tower will be constructed adjacent to the existing tower. Distribution system improvements are also proposed to upgrade existing four inch mains to six inch diameter mains. Approximately 3,680 linear feet along 1st Street from Ash to Maple and north to 2nd Street will be replaced. The Village's three supply wells, (primary Wells No. 89-1 and 2013-1, and backup Well No. 83-1) were reviewed and deemed adequate. All wells have the capacity of approximately 500 gallons per minute (gpm).

Based upon information from the Engineer's PER, it was recommended that the Village proceed with a tower replacement project and distribution system improvements. The tower will be sized at a 100,000 gallon capacity and placed directly south of the existing tower. The existing tower will be demolished after the new tank is constructed and put into to service. The new tower will provide a minimum service pressure to the entire Village of 30 to 60 pounds per square inch (psi). The Village's projected daily average water use for a 20 year design horizon is 76,440 gallons per day (gpd). Lindsay Manufacturing's 20 year projected daily average is 60,000 gpd for a combined total of 136,440 gpd. Typical municipal storage design values are a one day average water use. The Engineer presented both 100,000 gallon and 150,000 gallon tank size cost estimates to the community and the Village selected the 100,000 gallon alternative.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. The majority of responses indicated that the project had no effect or had no objections. A portion of the water main replacement lies in the 100 year flood plain, a flood plain construction permit will be required from the Village. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater permit will be required by NDEQ if more than one acre of land is disturbed. The Lindsay's public water system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in September of 2016, wherein no deficiencies were noted. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. The Village 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. Lindsay's current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The Village is eligible for a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 2 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.78 percent of the loan balance will be assessed each year. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) from the loan would be \$99,683. Currently, the average bill for a residential water service is \$11.00 per month for typical 8,000 gallon per monthly use. The revenues from Lindsay's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. Based on 161 active service connections, monthly household rates may need to be raised \$25.80 to address the new debt service assuming the industrial customers will pick up an equivalent share for their portion of water used at the commercial and industrial water rates. A final assessment of revenues and costs will determine what rate adjustments are necessary.

A Public Meeting was held December 20, 2017, with 35 days advanced posted notice. A presentation of the proposed project was made by the Village's Engineer, including the alternatives considered and project cost with the associated funding available. Board members had questions on the technical elements of the plan. The impacts to user rates was presented by the Engineer. All questions and concerns were addressed. This meeting satisfies the public participation requirements of Title 131 for DWSRF funds.

The proposed project is determined by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health to help the public water system maintain compliance. The infrastructure investment in a replacement tower is 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., Flood Plain, NDEQ, 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 Preliminary Design Memorandum and other supporting data that are on file with NDEQ. The latter are available for public review upon request and the environmental assessment is attached. The NDEQ 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 Steve McNulty @ 402 471-1006 or email steve.mculty@nebraska.gov of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, or Tom Fuenning @ 402 471-4989 or email tom.fuenning@nebraska.gov of the Water Permits Division of NDEQ.

Signed this 6th day of February, 2018.

Sincerely,

Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Environmental Assessment
Distribution List
Map