



## DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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 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: Wahoo Lead Service Line Replacements  
APPLICANT: Wahoo, Nebraska  
COUNTY: Saunders  
POPULATION: 4,818 (2020 census)  
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311671  
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$683,800  
ESTIMATED LOAN FORGIVENESS: \$263,058  
ESTIMATED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$420,742

The City of Wahoo has applied for funding, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program administered by the NDEE to replace approximately one lead service line and approximately 75 galvanized service lines.

This project was listed on the Planning List in the State Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plan (IUP) and was ranked with 60 priority points. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEE, this project was determined to be eligible for a 30-year loan at an interest rate of 0.00%, per the criteria listed in the IUP. The administrative fee is assessed at 0.00% as well. Wahoo is eligible for loan forgiveness of up to 38.47%. The current residential water rate is \$20.91 per month with an additional usage charge of \$1.63 per thousand gallons after the first thousand gallons of water usage per month. The typical long-term annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$15,425.67. Based on 2,009 active service connections, residential water rates may need to be raised approximately \$0.64 per month to address the new debt service.

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 a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared. The project as proposed is solely directed toward the replacement of water service lines. 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 state or 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, properties 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, portion of the project may lie within the 100-year floodplain, and if required, a permit will be obtained from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction; and,
- 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 NDEE to help the public water system maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by NDEE in January of 2022, wherein six significant deficiencies were noted and have since been corrected. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) program policy. Wahoo will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TMF Assessment by the NDEE, to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is zero, which is below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The NDEE 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 FNSI determination are encouraged to submit such comments directly to NDEE State Revolving Fund Program at [ndee.srf@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndee.srf@nebraska.gov), or at 402-471-4200.

Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

Sincerely,

Sarah Starostka  
Division Administrator

SS/amk

Attachments: Distribution List  
Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST  
WAHOO, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

[ndee.nepa-review@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndee.nepa-review@nebraska.gov)  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

John Miller, Permits and Registrations Division  
[john.j.miller@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.j.miller@nebraska.gov)  
P.O. Box 94676  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION

Melissa Marinovich, Environmental Review  
[ngpc.envreview@Nebraska.gov](mailto:ngpc.envreview@Nebraska.gov)  
P.O. Box 30370  
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY\_

Betty Gillespie, Interim Deputy -  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
[hn.hp@nebraska.gov](mailto:hn.hp@nebraska.gov)  
P.O. Box 82554  
Lincoln, NE 68508-2554

STATE OFFICE OF POLICY RESEARCH

Cicely Wardyn, Policy Advisor  
[cicely.wardyn@nebraska.gov](mailto:cicely.wardyn@nebraska.gov)  
Rm 1319, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 94601  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4601

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tom Stephens, Financial Packager  
[tom.stephens@nebraska.gov](mailto:tom.stephens@nebraska.gov)  
245 Fallbrook Boulevard  
Lincoln, NE 68521

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Janae Johnson  
[nebraskaES@fws.gov](mailto:nebraskaES@fws.gov)  
9325 South Alda Road  
Wood River, NE 68883

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Christine Gabriel, Environmental Coordinator/Midwest  
[mwro\\_compliance@nps.gov](mailto:mwro_compliance@nps.gov)  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ryan Brandt/Kelley Messenger  
[ryan.brandt@usda.gov](mailto:ryan.brandt@usda.gov);  
[kelley.messenger@usda.gov](mailto:kelley.messenger@usda.gov)  
Room 308, Federal Building  
100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chris Simmons/Carter Tharp  
[simmons.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:simmons.christopher@epa.gov);  
[tharp.carter@epa.gov](mailto:tharp.carter@epa.gov)  
11201 Renner Blvd  
Mail Code: WWPDWIMB  
Lenexa, KS 66219

STATE CONSERVATIONIST

Robert Lawson, Natural Resources Conservation  
Svc.  
[robert.lawson@usda.gov](mailto:robert.lawson@usda.gov)  
Federal Building, Room 152  
100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Jeremy Grauf, State Program Manager -  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
[Jeremy.grauf@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jeremy.grauf@usace.army.mil)  
Nebraska State Office, Suite 1  
8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

CITY OF WAHOO

Ryan Hurst, Utilities General Manager  
[hurst@wahoo.ne.us](mailto:hurst@wahoo.ne.us)  
605 N Broadway  
Wahoo, NE 68066

WAHOO NEWSPAPER

[legals@wahoonepaper.com](mailto:legals@wahoonepaper.com)  
564 N Broadway  
Wahoo, NE 68066  
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD

Karen Rezac, Department Assistant  
[lpnnrd@lpnnrd.org](mailto:lpnnrd@lpnnrd.org)  
PO Box 126  
Wahoo, NE 68066

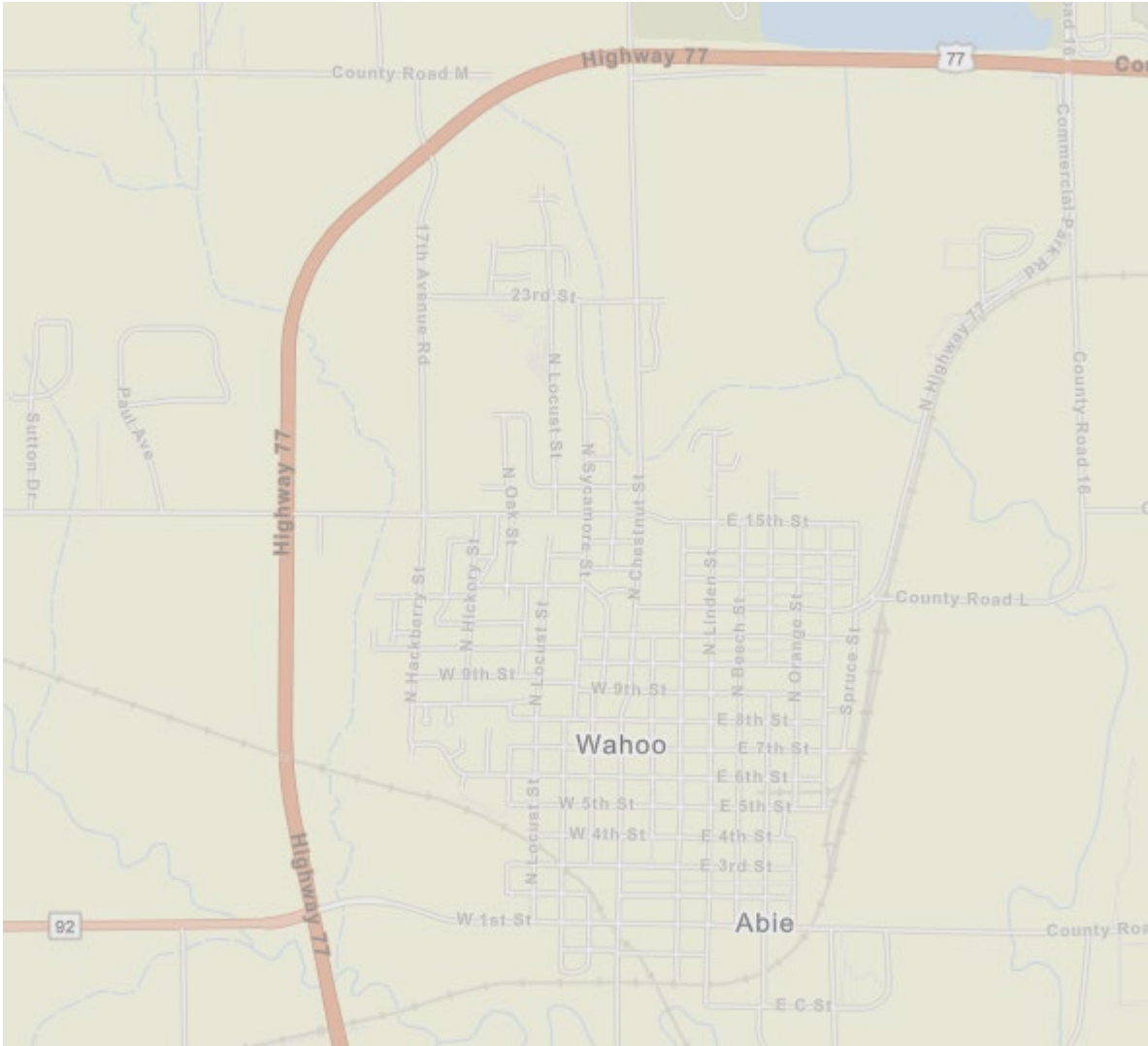


Figure 1: GIS Map of the City of Wahoo