



CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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 encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Fairbury's Wastewater Treatment Works Phase 1 Upgrade
APPLICANT: Fairbury, Nebraska
COUNTY: Jefferson
POPULATION: 3,942 (2010 census)
IIS PROJECT NO: 57713
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318004
ESTIMATED CWSRF PROJECT AMOUNT: \$3,500,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF 15% LOAN FORGIVENESS: \$525,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN FUNDS: \$2,975,000

The City of Fairbury, Nebraska, is planning to upgrade their mechanical wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) with construction of new influent screening and grit removal facility in the headworks including new grit processing improvements. In addition, a new final clarifier along with primary and final clarifier improvements will be constructed. Also included will be reworking the existing return activated sludge piping or pumping system and replacing worn out valves and appurtenances. These improvements are needed to extend the plant asset life another 20 years. The last wastewater treatment plant upgrade was in 1998. The City will defer future Phase 2 planned upgrades if or when nutrient requirements are added to the City's NPDES discharge permit, as dictated by equipment condition or plant loadings. Treatment objectives to be met by Phase 1 improvements are overall treatment capacity, improved treatment reliability, better operational maintenance and safety will be integrated into the facilities. The planning Design Criteria is summarized in the following chart which will be refined in the design stage:

	Present Conditions	Design 20 year Conditions
Population	3,942 (2010 Census)	3,655 (expected decline)
Per Capita Wastewater Flow	76 gallons per capita per day	90 gallons per capita per day
Average and Peak Influent Flow	0.30 mgd avg.- 2.26 mgd peak	0.33 mgd avg - 0.73 mgd max. month w Industry capacity
cBOD, carbonaceous biological oxygen demand	417 lbs/day avg city contribution 524 lbs/day industry contribution	665 lbs/day average for domestic 921 lbs/day industrial contributions
TSS, Total Suspended Solids	442 lbs/day avg city contribution 216 lbs/day industry contribution	783 lbs/day average for domestic 380 lbs/day industrial contributions
Ammonia, TKN	76.5 lbs/day avg city contribution 34.5 lbs/day industry contribution	107 lbs/day average for domestic 61 lbs/day industrial contributions

In particular, the improvements based in conjunction with operator input are for the following processes:

1. Influent Pump Station Rehab;
2. New/Rehab Headworks/Grit Removal/Flow Metering/Screening with associated water system improvements, if needed;
3. Primary Clarifier Rehab;
4. New Pre-Aeration Blower Building;
5. Replace Butterfly Valves;
6. Rehabilitate the Final Clarifier;
7. Add an additional Final Clarifier;
8. Rework RAS piping and Add New RAS Pumping System;
9. Other Antiquated Equipment Removal and Administrative Building Roof Replacement.

Fairbury’s WWTF discharges treated effluent to the Little Blue River under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit NE0024384. The WWTF generates primary and waste activated secondary sludges which are thickened and land applied under Federal 40 CFR Part 503 Sludge Rules. Effluent discharges to surface waters are required to meet secondary discharge limitations which are proposed for their next NPDES permit renewal as follows:

Parameter	Units	Discharge Limits	
		Monthly Average	7-Day Average
Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (cBOD)	mg/l	25.0	40.0
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/l	30.0	45.0
pH	SU	6.5 daily minimum	9.0 daily maximum
Spring Ammonia (March 1 - May 31)	mg/l	35.06	70.346
Summer Ammonia (June 1 – Oct.31)	mg/l	6.21	12.45
Winter Ammonia (Nov. 1 – Feb 28)	mg/l	35.35	70.71
E. Coli for Recreation Season (May 1 – September 30)	#/100 ml	126	298
Total Nitrogen	mg/l	Report (future 8.0 est.)	Report
Total Phosphorus	mg/l	Report (future 1.0 est.)	Report

The City of Fairbury has applied for financial assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program for the WWTF Phase 1 improvements. This project is listed in the SFY 2021 funding list Intended Use Plan which makes it eligible for financing through the CWSRF program. Fairbury is eligible for a 20-year CWSRF loan at the current program per annum interest rate of 0.0 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.0 percent of the outstanding principal balance will not be assessed each year. Fairbury is also eligible for 15% loan forgiveness of the eligible project costs.

Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the \$3.5 million CWSRF loan minus \$525,000 loan forgiveness or \$2,975,000 loan amount. The City of Fairbury has approximately 1,812 sewer connections. The annual CWSRF loan repayment for a 20 year term, 0.0% per annum interest plus an annual 0.0% administrative fee is approximately \$148,750 per year. The current monthly sewer rate is a base rate of \$12.24 plus a use rate of \$1.15 per hundred cubic feet (CCF) winter water use. This equates using an average household monthly winter water use of 6.685 CCF or 5,000 gallons to \$19.93 per month typical residential sewer rate. The estimated sewer rate increase would be a total of \$7.50 per month per user which includes a 10% coverage requirement. The sewer fund revenue requirements will be evaluated after the completion of the project by the City of Fairbury and adjusted if needed.

The Fairbury WWTF plant lies within the 100 year floodplain and will require a permit to construct within the floodplain by the designated floodplain administrator for the City. The improvements will be required to be floodproofed to one foot above the 100 year floodplain elevation of 1,305.5 EL. A Construction Storm Water General Permit will be required from NDEE if more than 1 acre of land will be disturbed. The community can designate the General Contractor as the authorized representative on the storm water permit notice of intent submitted to the NDEE. Authorization of storm water runoff from the construction activity must be in place prior to commencing construction and the areas disturbed during construction will be re-seeded with native grasses. The project will comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Eagle Act.

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 to serve existing and future industry growth for the City of Fairbury. All improvements will occur inside the existing WWTF property boundary. Justification for categorical exclusion includes:

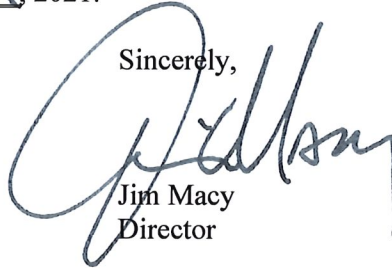
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered 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, significant fish or wildlife habitat, and floodplains (WWTF plant is within the 100 year floodplain, improvements will be floodproofed);
- 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 be consistent 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.

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.

Signed this 2nd day of April, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Macy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jim Macy
Director

JM/tsf

- Attachments: Distribution List
Maps
(a) Phase 1 project improvements, Site Map
(b) Floodplain map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
FAIRBURY, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

LITTLE BLUE NRD

100 East 6th Street
PO Box 100
Davenport, NE 68335

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -
REGULATION AND LICENSURE

Steve McNulty
P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ryan Brandt
Room 308, Federal Building
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Curt Inbody
P.O. Box 94676
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chris Simmons/Kelly Beard-Tittone
11201 Renner Blvd
Mail Code: WWPDWIMB
Lenexa, KS 66219

NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION

Schuyler Sampson/Shannon Sjolie
P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

STATE CONSERVATIONIST

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Federal Building, Room 345
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68508-2554

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

John Moeschen
State Program Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
Nebraska State Office, Suite 1
8901 South 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

STATE OFFICE OF POLICY RESEARCH

Policy Advisor
Rm 1319, State Capitol
P.O. Box 94601
Lincoln, NE 68509-4601

APPLICANT

Ms. Mary Renn
City Administrator
City of Fairbury
612 D Street
PO Box 554
Fairbury, NE 68352-0554

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Aaron Boucher
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509

ENGINEER

Craig Reinsch, P.E.
Olsson
601 P Street, Ste. 200
Lincoln, NE 68508

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Eliza Hines
9325 South Alda Road
Wood River, NE 68883

LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Fairbury Journal-News
510 C Street
Fairbury, NE 68352
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Christine Gabriel
Environmental Coordinator
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

