

Why You Should Read This: The document below 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, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.



IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

October 5, 2020

To: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups

An environmental review has been performed based on the procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed agency action below:

Applicant: City of Charles City
County: Floyd
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1920876 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: S2016-0468A

The City of Charles City, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater treatment plant. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. The State Revolving Loan Program is a program authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

The City of Charles City is located in Floyd County, Iowa approximately 35 miles east of Mason City, Iowa and 50 miles north of Waterloo, Iowa. The population of Charles City according to the 2010 US Census was 7,652 persons. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 8,278 persons.

The Gilbert lift station, also known as the Chautauqua lift station, was constructed in 1955 with a wet well and a dry well. Pumps were replaced in 1991. The control panel was located nearby and was replaced in 2004. The station does not have a flow meter. The system has surcharged and the operators have had to bypass the station during high flows. The capacity of the lift station is

insufficient to deliver adequate flows even with both pumps operational. The wet well has been repeatedly flooded as the system is below the 100-year flood elevation.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater conveyance system to enhance the system's reliability and increase capacity in order to better safely and reliably operate the City of Charles City's wastewater system for at least the next 20 years. This project includes the construction of a new wastewater lift station which will functionally replace the existing Gilbert Lift Station. Associated piping and utility re-alignment will also take place in this vicinity. Positive environmental effects will be improved conveyance of the wastewater through the Gilbert Lift Station. Inadequate conveyance could result in sewer backups or treatment bypasses which could expose the public to untreated sewage, which in turn could cause adverse health impacts.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will not impact wetlands. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.

The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain provided the terms of a local floodplain development permit area abided by. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value. No Historic Properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)"c"). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Minimum separation distances will be maintained. Noise during construction will be maintained at tolerable levels through controls on construction activities. Any construction debris will be removed from the site for proper disposal. Adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized with proper construction practices, inspection, prompt clean up and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored.

It has been determined that the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the surrounding environment. This determination is based on a careful review of the engineering report, the environmental assessment and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Natural Resources' office in Des Moines, Iowa. These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. This Department will not take any administrative action on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to the department during this period. Please direct your comments to me at Jean.Mayne@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-725-0487.

Sincerely,



Jean Mayne

Jean Mayne
Environmental Specialist
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): FOX Engineering
Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health
Iowa Department of Public Health
Leslie Leager, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Ingrid Gronstal, Iowa Environmental Council
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities
Jane Clark, Sierra Club
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development
Tokey Boswell, USDO, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Christopher Simmons, USEPA Region VII
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII
Charles City Press

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Charles City
County: Floyd
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1920876 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: S2016-0468A

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Charles City is located in Floyd County, Iowa approximately 35 miles east of Mason City, Iowa and 50 miles north of Waterloo, Iowa.

Population: The population of Charles City according to the 2010 US Census was 7,652 persons. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 8,278 persons.

Project Background: The Gilbert lift station, also known as the Chautauqua lift station, was constructed in 1955 with a wet well and a dry well. Pumps were replaced in 1991. The control panel was located nearby and was replaced in 2004. The station does not have a flow meter. The system has surcharged and the operators have had to bypass the station during high flows. The capacity of the lift station is insufficient to deliver adequate flows even with both pumps operational. The wet well has been repeatedly flooded as the system is below the 100-year flood elevation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater conveyance system to enhance the system's reliability and increase capacity in order to better safely and reliably operate the City of Charles City's wastewater system for at least the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: This project includes the construction of a new wastewater lift station which will functionally replace the existing Gilbert Lift Station. Associated piping and utility re-alignment will also take place in this vicinity.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: Alternatives included multiple possible locations for the replacement lift station.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the natural deterioration of the existing lift station. The project site was selected for the availability of land, engineering criteria, and proximity to existing infrastructure, as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on September 21, 2020 at 6:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Charles City Press on August 18, 2020. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No written or oral comments were received.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups: The following Federal, state and local agencies were asked to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historical Preservation Office)
- Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
- Iowa DNR Water Resources Section
- Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe
- Flandreau Santee Sioux
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Omaha Tribal Council
- Osage Tribal Council
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
 Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
 Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
 Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
 Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
 Prairie Island Indian Community
 Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
 Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
 Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma
 Santee Sioux Nation
 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
 Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
 Spirit Lake Tribal Council
 Three Affiliated Tribes Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations
 Upper Sioux Tribe
 Winnebago Tribal Council
 Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee
 Charles City Historic Commission

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public. Conditions placed on the applicant by the above agencies in order to assure no significant impact are included in the Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact section.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Construction: Traffic patterns within the community may be disrupted and above normal noise levels in the vicinity of the construction equipment can be anticipated during construction and should be a temporary problem. Adverse environmental impacts on noise quality will be handled by limited hours of contractor work time during the day. Other adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized by proper construction practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the construction project will be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents.

Care will be taken to maintain dirt to avoid erosion and runoff; no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected. Temporary air quality degradation may occur due to dust and fumes from construction equipment. The applicant shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 23.3(2)“c”).

Historical/Archaeological: The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were

provided information regarding the project. The DNR has determined, and the SHPO has not objected, that this undertaking will result in “no historic properties affected” based on the scope of the project, the prior use of the project area, and the findings of the Phase I Archeological Surveys conducted on the project property. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

Environmental: A Joint Application was submitted by the City’s consultant to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The DNR Flood Plain Management Section will determine if the proposed project requires a permit for impacts to the 100-year floodplain. The DNR Conservation and Recreation Division will determine if the project will impact any State-owned lands or State-listed threatened or endangered species. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will determine if the proposed project will impact wetlands or jurisdictional waters of the United States.

According to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division, the proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas or open spaces. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concurs that the project will not impact wetlands. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 Technical Assistance website consultation determined, and Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree, that the project will not impact threatened or endangered species or their habitats. However, if any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. According to the Iowa DNR Water Resources Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain provided the terms of a local floodplain development permit area abided by. No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity.

Land Use and Trends: This area is currently a mowed area adjacent an existing bike trail. The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. No significant farmlands will be impacted as per the scoring of the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating. This project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water/sewer infrastructure is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region. Similarly, this project is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the pattern and type of land use.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources: Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy will be utilized during construction.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Positive environmental effects will be improved conveyance of the wastewater through the Gilbert Lift Station. Inadequate conveyance could result in sewer backups or treatment bypasses which could expose the public to untreated sewage, which in turn could cause adverse health impacts.

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The project will not impact wetlands.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.
- The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
- The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain provided the terms of a local floodplain development permit area abided by.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- No Historic Properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.
- No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

THEREFORE:

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 92.8(1)“b” relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time.



Jean Mayne

Jean Mayne

Environmental Review Specialist

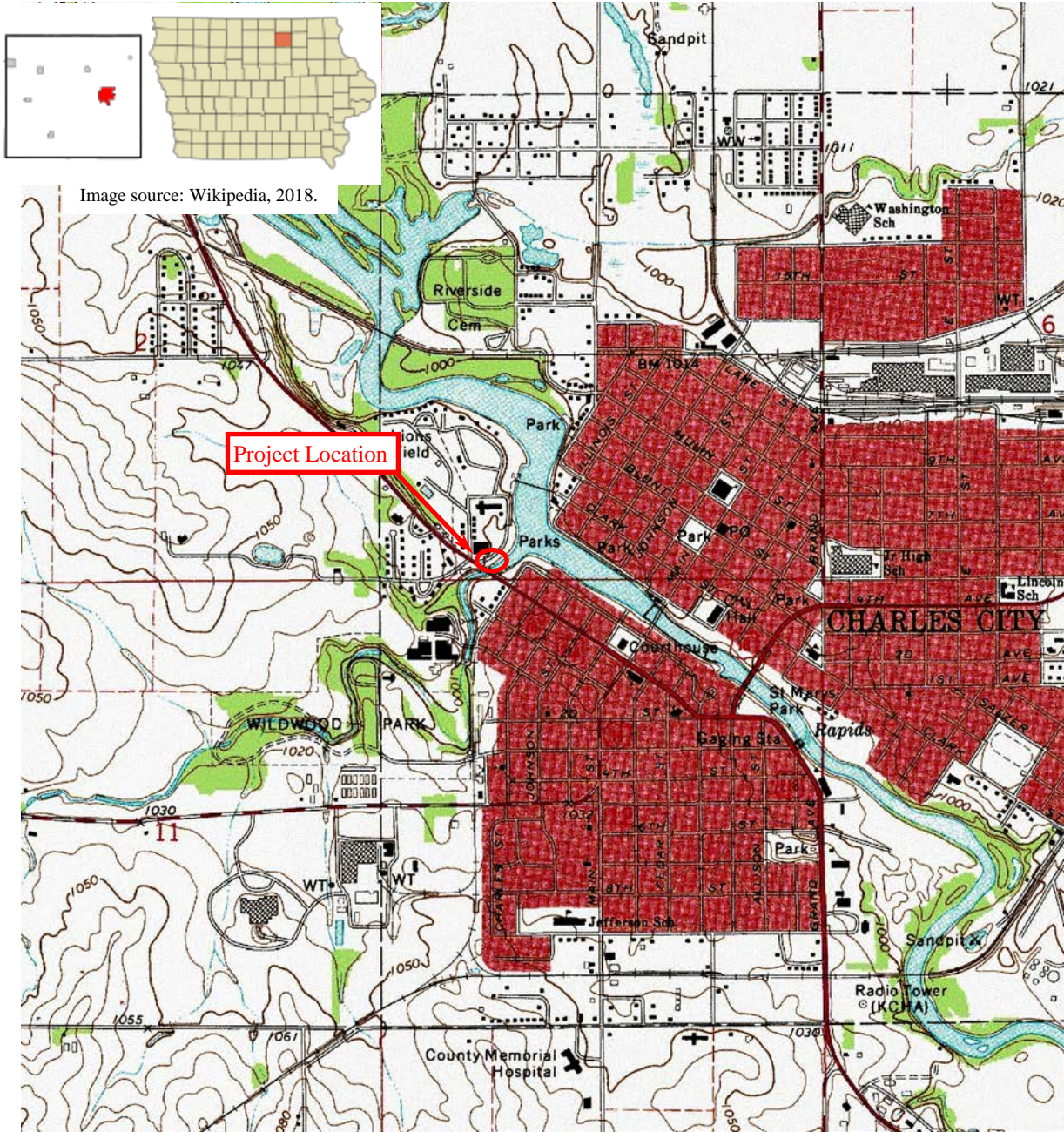
State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Charles City
Section: 01, Township: 95 N, Range: 16 W
Date: 1971
Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet



North



USGS Topographic Map

Charles City Gilbert Street Lift Station
Charles City, IA



State Revolving Fund
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

2017

Location information provided by Fox Engineering



North



Aerial Photograph

Charles City Gilbert Street Lift Station
Charles City, IA



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502 East 9th Street
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