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

April 15, 2021

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 Cedar Rapids
County: Linn
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-57-20-DWSRF-022
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2019-0178

The City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their water treatment facility. 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 Cedar Rapids is located in Linn County, Iowa in the east-central portion of the state. The population of Cedar Rapids according to the 2010 US Census was 126,326. The Cedar Rapids Northwest Water Treatment Plant was designed to supply 20 to 25 million gallons per day of potable water to the Cedar Rapids service area. Since the original construction of the plant, the City has not been able to operate the treatment plant at its design capacity. All indications are that the high effluent turbidity from the solids contact units has prevented the plant from being able to exceed 16 million gallons per day when the raw water is cold due to shortened filter run times and extended filter-to-waste times after backwashing. Previous studies have indicated that the solids contact units appear to have a performance problem with the equipment itself.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the water treatment facilities to enhance their reliability, increase treatment capacity and to replace aging equipment in order to continue to safely and reliably operate the City of Cedar Rapids' water system for at least the next 20 years. This project consists of the construction of a new solids contact basin, a new recarbonation basin, splitter structures, chemical feed equipment, and a sludge control building. Various piping modifications and utility adjustments will also be made at this existing wastewater treatment facility in order to accommodate the new treatment units. Positive environmental effects will be improved water quantity in the Cedar Rapids service area. The new treatment equipment will improve the treatment plant capacity and better assist in the prevention of water supply contamination associated with inadequate pressures within the distribution system.

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. 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 provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

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

Digitally signed by Jean Mayne
Date: 2021.04.15 11:11:10
-05'00'

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

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution List (email):
Black & Veetch
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health
Sarah Peterson, Iowa Department of Public Health
Nichole Hansen, 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, USDOI, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeek, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Christopher Simmons, USEPA Region VII
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII
Cedar Rapids Gazette

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
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Cedar Rapids
County: Linn
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-57-20-DWSRF-022
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2019-0178

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Cedar Rapids is located in Linn County, Iowa in the east-central portion of the state.

Population: The population of Cedar Rapids according to the 2010 US Census was 126,326.

Project Background: The Cedar Rapids Northwest Water Treatment Plant was designed to supply 20 to 25 million gallons per day of potable water to the Cedar Rapids service area. Since the original construction of the plant, the City has not been able to operate the treatment plant at its design capacity. All indications are that the high effluent turbidity from the solids contact units has prevented the plant from being able to exceed 16 million gallons per day when the raw water is cold due to shortened filter run times and extended filter-to-waste times after backwashing. Previous studies have indicated that the solids contact units appear to have a performance problem with the equipment itself.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the water treatment facilities to enhance their reliability, increase treatment capacity and to replace aging

equipment in order to continue to safely and reliably operate the City of Cedar Rapids' water system for at least the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: This project consists of the construction of a new solids contact basin, a new recarbonation basin, splitter structures, chemical feed equipment, and a sludge control building. Various piping modifications and utility adjustments will also be made at this existing wastewater treatment facility in order to accommodate the new treatment units.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: Three alternatives were considered for the problem. While construction of a new solids contact unit was expected, the location of this unit and layout of the treatment train were considered—east, north, or south of the existing equipment.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the inability of the existing solids contact units to adequately treat the quantity of water needed. While costs for the options were essentially equal, the location and treatment train selected will allow for future phasing to be done incrementally.

The project site was selected for the availability of land (it is already City-owned), engineering criteria, and proximity to existing treatment structures as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on March 23, 2021 at 4:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Cedar Rapids Gazette on February 9, 2021. 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
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
Linn County Historic Preservation Commission
Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation 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. The proposed project will disturb soils over an area greater than one acre; therefore, the applicant is required to obtain an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) and abide by its terms. Provided that this permit is obtained and the terms of which are abided by, 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 concurred (R&C#210457098), that this undertaking will result in “no historic properties affected” based on the scope of the project, the prior disturbance of a portion of the project area, and the findings of the Phase I Archeological Survey 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: 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. 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: The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. No significant farmlands will be impacted. 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 water quantity in the Cedar Rapids service area. The new treatment equipment will improve the treatment plant capacity and better assist in the prevention of water supply contamination associated with inadequate pressures within the distribution system.

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.
- 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 provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

THEREFORE:

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 44.10(3) 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

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Date: 2021.04.15 11:10:42 -05'00'

Jean Mayne, CPM
Environmental Review Specialist
State Revolving Fund
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Fairfax
Section: 15, **Township:** 83 N, **Range:** 08 W
Date: 1993
Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet

North

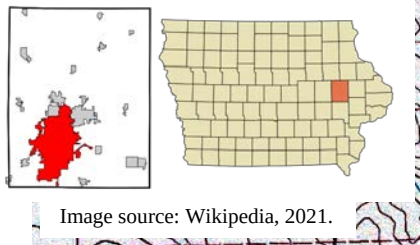

Image source: Wikipedia, 2021.

USGS Topographic Map

Cedar Rapids Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
Cedar Rapids, IA

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

2017

Location information provided by Black & Vetch

North

Aerial Photograph

Cedar Rapids Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
Cedar Rapids, IA

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