

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

August 28, 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 Lake Mills
County: Winnebago
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1920894 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2017-0385A

The City of Lake Mills, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). 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 Lake Mills is located in Winnebago County, Iowa approximately 35 miles northwest of Mason City, Iowa and 20 miles southwest of Albert Lea, Minnesota. The population of Lake Mills according to the 2010 US Census was 2,100. The design population equivalent for the year 2038 is 2,100.

The existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is a four-cell aerated lagoon system. In the existing configuration, flow enters the facility through an existing 16-inch force main from the on-site lift station. From the influent control structure, the water typically flows into Aerated Lagoon Cell No. 1, then Aerated Lagoon Cell No. 2, then into Aerated Lagoon Cell No. 3, and then, finally, into Cell No. 4. The flow then continues on to the quiescent cell after which the treated wastewater is discharged through a 12-inch ductile iron effluent pipe into an Unnamed

Creek. Recent changes to the allowed discharge limits have restricted the amount of ammonia and E. coli that can be present in the treated wastewater discharge; the current treatment process is not expected to be able to meet these latest discharge limits.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to continue to comply with the discharge permit and to enhance their reliability in order to safely operate the City of Lake Mills' wastewater system for at least the next 20 years. The proposed project consists of converting the existing aerated lagoon treatment facility to an enhanced treatment aerated lagoon process. The existing lagoon cells would be used, but additional equipment would be incorporated to comply with the latest discharge permit. The proposed project includes the installation of a submerged attached growth reactor system (SAGR) after the quiescent cell to provide additional ammonia removal, and the installation of an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system to treat for E. coli before the wastewater is discharged.

The treated wastewater from the existing facility discharges to Unnamed Creek which flows into Beaver Creek, tributary to the Winnebago River. The outfall location is not proposed to be altered. Each stream segment in Iowa has a specific designation to protect recreation use and aquatic life. This Unnamed Creek has a use stream designation of Class A2 and Class B(WW2). Class A2 waters are waters in which recreational or other uses may result in contact with the water that is either incidental or accidental. Class B(WW2) are those in which flow or other physical characteristics are capable of supporting a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, and 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. The project is not expected to have significant adverse impacts to surface water quality, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats.

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 casey.laskowski@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-725-0261.

Sincerely,



Casey Laskowski
Environmental Specialist
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Jason Petersburg, Weenstra & Kimm, Inc.
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health
Sarah Petersen, 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, USDOT, 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
Lake Mills Graphic

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Lake Mills
County: Winnebago
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1920894 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2017-0385A

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Lake Mills is located in Winnebago County, Iowa approximately 35 miles northwest of Mason City, Iowa and 20 miles southwest of Albert Lea, Minnesota.

Population: The population of Lake Mills according to the 2010 US Census was 2,100. The design population equivalent for the year 2038 is 2,100.

Current Waste Treatment: The existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is a four-cell aerated lagoon system. In the existing configuration, flow enters the facility through an existing 16-inch force main from the on-site lift station. From the influent control structure, the water typically flows into Aerated Lagoon Cell No. 1, then Aerated Lagoon Cell No. 2, then into Aerated Lagoon Cell No. 3, and then, finally, into Cell No. 4. The flow then continues on to the quiescent cell after which the treated wastewater is discharged through a 12-inch ductile iron effluent pipe into an Unnamed Creek. Recent changes to the allowed discharge limits have restricted the amount of ammonia and E. coli that can be present in the treated wastewater discharge; the current treatment process is not expected to be able to meet these latest discharge limits.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to continue to comply with the discharge permit and to enhance

their reliability in order to safely operate the City of Lake Mills' wastewater system for at least the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed project consists of converting the existing aerated lagoon treatment facility to an enhanced treatment aerated lagoon process. The existing lagoon cells would be used, but additional equipment would be incorporated to comply with the latest discharge permit. The proposed project includes the installation of a submerged attached growth reactor system (SAGR) after the quiescent cell to provide additional ammonia removal, and the installation of an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system to treat for E. coli before the wastewater is discharged.

Receiving Stream: The treated wastewater from the existing facility discharges to Unnamed Creek which flows into Beaver Creek, tributary to the Winnebago River. The outfall location is not proposed to be altered. Each stream segment in Iowa has a specific designation to protect recreation use and aquatic life. This Unnamed Creek has a use stream designation of Class A2 and Class B(WW2). Class A2 waters are waters in which recreational or other uses may result in contact with the water that is either incidental or accidental. Class B(WW2) are those in which flow or other physical characteristics are capable of supporting a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: Five treatment alternatives were considered to comply with the new discharge permit limits: continued use of the existing aerated lagoon treatment facility, construction of a UV disinfection system, construction of a new controlled discharge lagoon, construction of a new mechanical treatment plant, or conversion of the existing aerated lagoon into an enhanced treatment aerated lagoon including the construction of a SAGR or Lemtec Lemna process.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the new discharge permit limits which the existing system is unable to achieve. Conversion of the existing aerated lagoon into an enhanced treatment aerated lagoon with the construction of a UV disinfection system and a SAGR was selected because it will result in minimal disturbance and will cost effectively meet the compliance schedule in the new discharge permit.

The project site was selected for the availability of land (it is already City-owned), proximity to existing infrastructure, engineering criteria, capital cost, and operational costs and considerations, as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on August 17, 2020 at 7:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Lake Mills Graphic on July 15, 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
- 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

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. Therefore, 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) 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#190795066), 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 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: The proposed project area is located at the existing Lake Mills wastewater treatment facility. 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 affect the 100-year flood plain. 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. The proposed project is within the present corporate limits of Lake Mills in areas zoned residential, commercial, or industrial. 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 treatment of the wastewater from the City of Lake Mills, compliance with latest effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of ammonia and E. coli to the receiving stream, and improved water quality in the receiving stream.

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, and 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.
- The project is not expected to have significant adverse impacts to surface water quality, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats.

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.



Casey Laskowski

Environmental Review Specialist

State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Lake Mills
Section(s): 2, 3, 10, and 11, Township: 99 N, Range: 23 W
Date: 1972
Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet



North

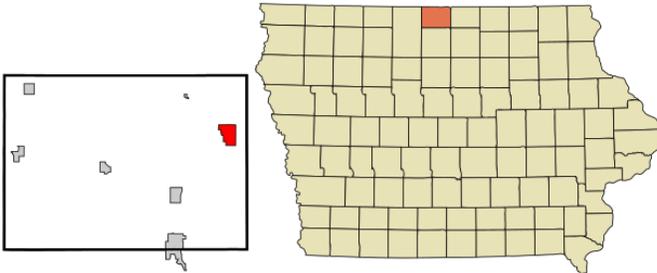
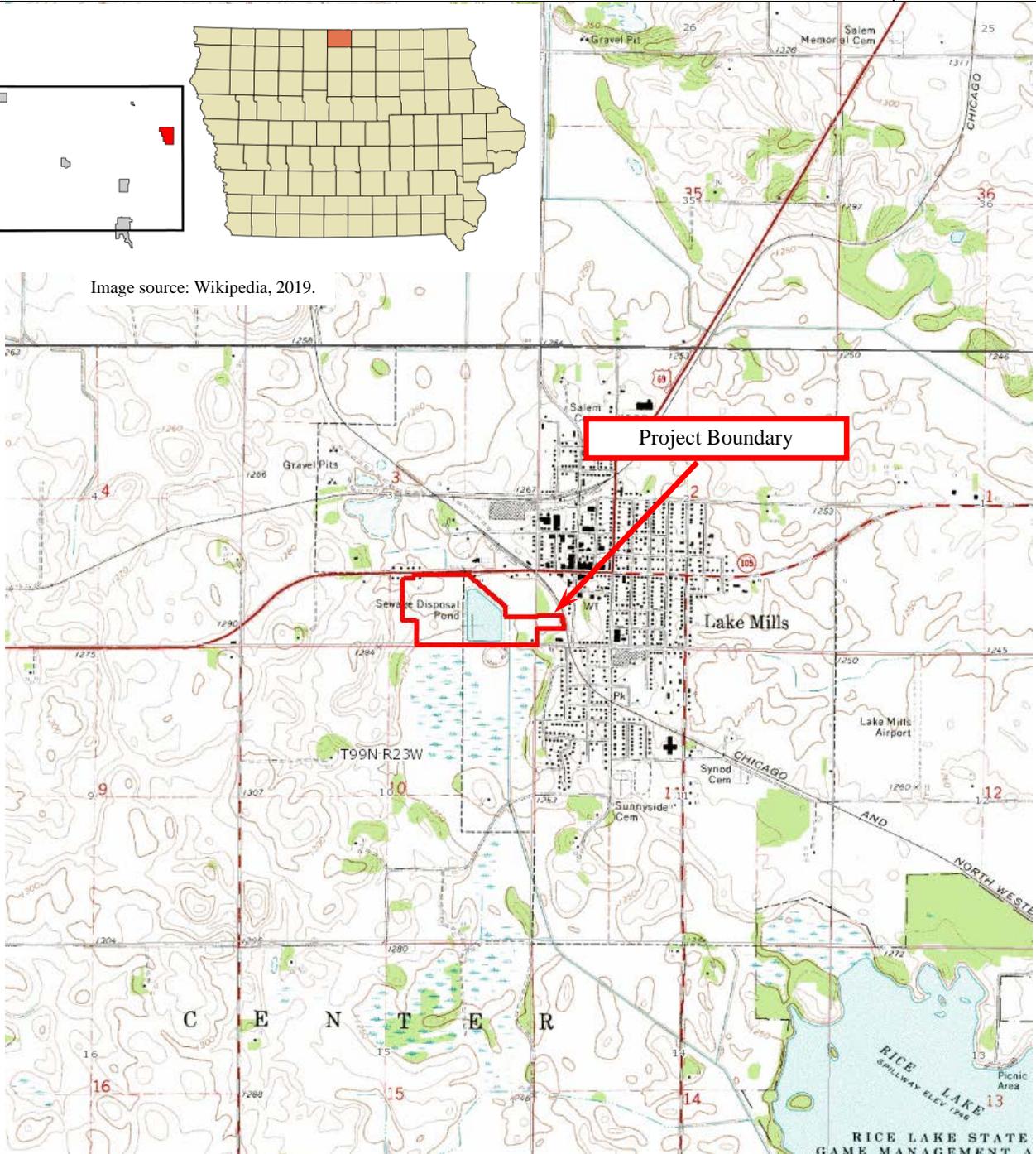


Image source: Wikipedia, 2019.



USGS Topographic Map

City of Lake Mills – WWTF Improvement Project
Lake Mills, IA

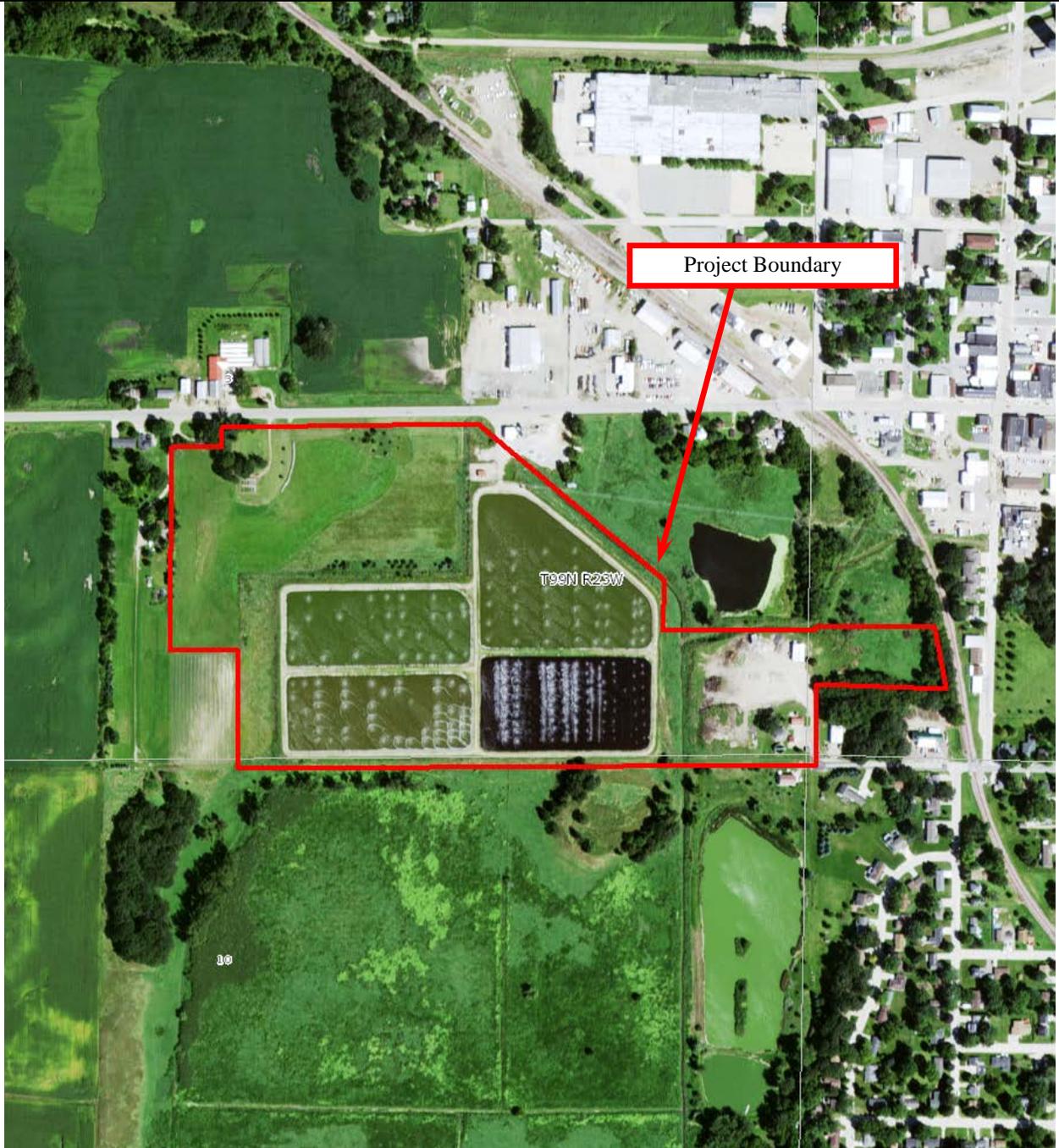


State Revolving Fund
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

2015



North



Aerial Photograph

City of Lake Mills – WWTF Improvement Project
Lake Mills, IA



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