

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

January 5, 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 Rockwell City
County: Calhoun
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1920932 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: 2018-0350A

The City of Rockwell City, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater 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 Rockwell City is located in Calhoun County, Iowa approximately 45 miles southeast of Storm Lake, Iowa and 80 miles northwest of Ames, Iowa. The population of Rockwell City according to the 2010 US Census was 1,709 persons. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 2,300 persons.

The City currently owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility made up of a trickling filter system. This system was originally constructed in 1956, with updates in 1999. In 2018, the City was issued a new discharge permit with a compliance schedule to meet new chloride, copper, E. coli, and ammonia effluent limits, as well as a requirement to develop a Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Prior to this new discharge permit, the facility did not have discharge limits

for these pollutants. Sampling indicates that the existing treatment facility is not able to consistently meet these new limits.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to meet the requirements of the new discharge permit in order to continue to safely and reliably operate the City of Rockwell City's wastewater system for at least the next 20 years. The project area is currently an existing wastewater treatment facility and a grassy area. The proposed project includes improvements to the existing wastewater treatment equipment, the addition of a new influent lift station and equalization basin lift station, a sequencing batch reactor and blower building, an ultraviolet disinfection unit, a stand-by generator, and various miscellaneous associated work onsite. The project will also include a new outfall pipe, however the discharge point will remain the same.

The treated wastewater from the proposed facility will discharge to Lake Creek. It has a use stream designation of A2, B (WW2). . Class A2 waters are those in which recreational or other uses may result in contact with the water that is either incidental or accidental. During the recreational use, the probability of ingesting appreciable quantities of water is minimal. Class A2 uses include fishing, commercial and recreational boating, any limited contact incidental to shoreline activities and activities. Class B(WW-2) waters 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 flow and other physical characteristics limit the maintenance of warm water game fish populations. These waters generally consist of small perennially flowing streams. Positive environmental effects will be improved treatment of the wastewater from the City of Rockwell City, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants ammonia, E. coli and nutrients to the receiving stream, and improved water quality in the receiving stream.

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 provided the terms of Nationwide Permit #12 are abided by. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. 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 all necessary floodplain development permits, state and local, are obtained and the terms of which are 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 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
Jean Mayne
Environmental Specialist
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution
List (email): ISG Inc.

Simmering-Cory

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Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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Stephanie Chickering, Iowa Department of Public Health

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Ingrid Gronstal, Iowa Environmental Council

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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

Graphic-Advocate Newspaper

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Rockwell City
County: Calhoun
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1920932 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: 2018-0350A

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Rockwell City is located in Calhoun County, Iowa approximately 45 miles southeast of Storm Lake, Iowa and 80 miles northwest of Ames, Iowa.

Population: The population of Rockwell City according to the 2010 US Census was 1,709 persons. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 2,300 persons.

Current Wastewater Treatment: The City currently owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility made up of a trickling filter system. This system was originally constructed in 1956, with updates in 1999. In 2018, the City was issued a new discharge permit with a compliance schedule to meet new chloride, copper, E. coli, and ammonia effluent limits, as well as a requirement to develop a Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Prior to this new discharge permit, the facility did not have discharge limits for these pollutants. Sampling indicates that the existing treatment facility is not able to consistently meet these new limits.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to meet the requirements of the new discharge permit in order to continue to safely and reliably operate the City of Rockwell City's wastewater system for at least the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The project area is currently an existing wastewater treatment facility and a grassy area. The proposed project includes improvements to the existing wastewater treatment equipment, the addition of a new influent lift station and equalization basin lift station, a sequencing batch reactor and blower building, an ultraviolet disinfection unit, a stand-by generator, and various miscellaneous associated work onsite. The project will also include a new outfall pipe, however the discharge point will remain the same.

Receiving Stream: The treated wastewater from the proposed facility will discharge to Lake Creek. It has a use stream designation of A2, B (WW2). . Class A2 waters are those in which recreational or other uses may result in contact with the water that is either incidental or accidental. During the recreational use, the probability of ingesting appreciable quantities of water is minimal. Class A2 uses include fishing, commercial and recreational boating, any limited contact incidental to shoreline activities and activities. Class B(WW-2) waters 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 flow and other physical characteristics limit the maintenance of warm water game fish populations. These waters generally consist of small perennially flowing streams.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: Five alternatives were evaluated for secondary treatment; these included rehabilitation of the existing secondary treatment equipment, activated sludge process, sequencing batch reactor, oxidation ditch, and lagoon treatment with Submerged Activated Growth Reactors (SAGR). Each alternative included ultraviolet disinfection in order to meet the new E. coli limits.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the new discharge limits which the existing facility is unable to meet consistently. The sequencing batch reactor treatment was selected on the basis of land required, capital cost, operation and maintenance cost, energy requirements, operator grade requirements and a 20-year lift cycle analysis. The project site was selected for the availability of land, engineering criteria, proximity to existing equipment, and ease of maintenance as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on March 16, 2020 at 5:30PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Graphic-Advocate newspaper on February 5th, 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
- Calhoun County 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. 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, 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: 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 provided the terms of Nationwide Permit #12 are abided by. 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 all necessary floodplain development permits, state and local, are obtained and the terms of which are 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: 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 Irrecoverable 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 Rockwell City, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants ammonia, E. coli and nutrients 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, 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 provided the terms of Nationwide Permit #12 are abided by.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to

avoid impacting endangered bats. 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 all necessary floodplain development permits, state and local, are obtained and the terms of which are 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 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 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

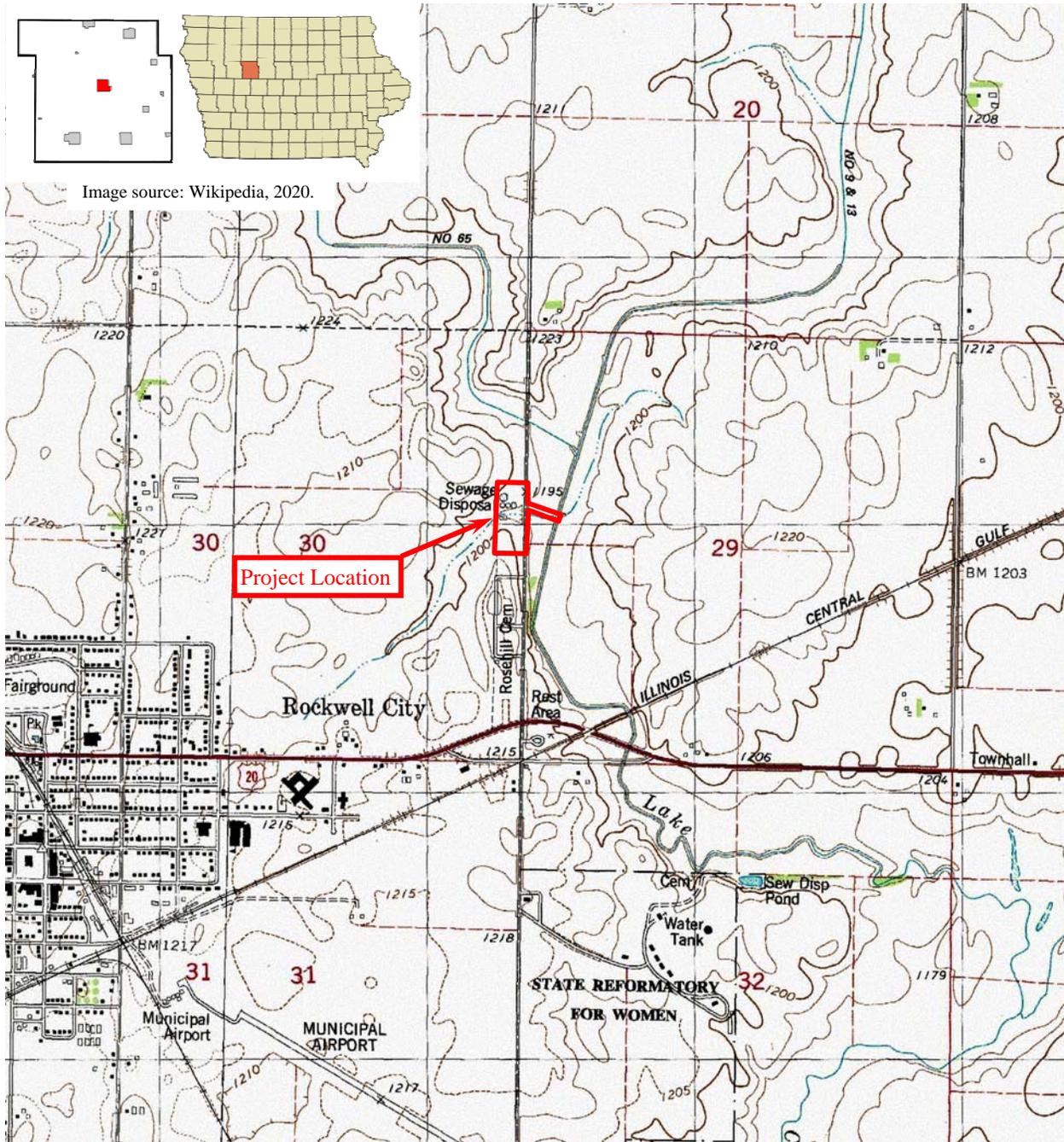
USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Richard
Section: 29 & 30, Township: 88 N, Range: 32 W
Date: 1980
Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet



North



Image source: Wikipedia, 2020.



USGS Topographic Map

Rockwell City Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
Rockwell City, IA



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

2017

Location information provided by ISG



North



Project Location

Aerial Photograph

Rockwell City Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
Rockwell City, IA



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