

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 18, 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 Rudd
County: Floyd
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-34-20-DWSRF-023
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2019-0554

Other Federal Funding: CDBG (\$300,000)

The City of Rudd, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their water treatment plant (WTP). 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 Rudd is located in Floyd County, Iowa approximately 19 miles southeast of Mason City, Iowa and 15 miles northwest of Charles City, Iowa. The population of Rudd according to the 2010 US Census was 369. The design population equivalent for the year 2039 is 349.

Currently, the city's water supply is owned and operated by the City of Rudd. The existing water system consist of two water supply wells, a treatment system including an aerator, detention tank, one high service pump, and two cell iron pressure filters, a 150,000 gallon elevated storage tank, and 2-inch through 12-inch water mains.

The water treatment plant (WTP) is located in the same building as Well #2 and treats only this well. It consists of an aerator, two filters, and a small detention tank. Chlorine is added to the water before it reaches the distribution system. Firm capacity is currently provided to the system from Well #1, which is supplied to the water system separately. The existing WTP is about 60 years old and had major replacements in 1979. The filter media was most recently replaced in 1996 and has a typical lifespan of approximately 20 years. Rudd's water supply meets all primary drinking water standards at this time, however due to aging equipment, the treatment plant is in need of repair or replacement in the near future.

The purpose of this project is to construct a new water treatment plant to enhance their reliability, and to replace aging equipment to safely and reliably operate the City of Rudd's water supply system for at least the next 20 years. The water treatment plant improvement project consists of the construction of a new water treatment plant (WTP) and the abandonment of the existing WTP for the City of Rudd. The project involves the construction of a new treatment plant adjacent to the existing WTP. The new WTP will be updated with facilities that can treat all the current and any future wells in Rudd.

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 impact the 100-year flood plain provided all necessary flood plain 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. The project will not have a significant impact 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 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): Rustin Lingbeek, SEH Inc.
Christopher Diggins, NIACOG
Michael Drummond, 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, USDOJ, 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
Nora Springs/Rockford Register

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Rudd
County: Floyd
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-34-20-DWSRF-023
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2019-0554

Other Federal Funding: CDBG (\$300,000)

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Rudd is located in Floyd County, Iowa approximately 19 miles southeast of Mason City, Iowa and 15 miles northwest of Charles City, Iowa.

Population: The population of Rudd according to the 2010 US Census was 369. The design population equivalent for the year 2039 is 349.

Project Background: Currently, the city's water supply is owned and operated by the City of Rudd. The existing water system consist of two water supply wells, a treatment system including an aerator, detention tank, one high service pump, and two cell iron pressure filters, a 150,000 gallon elevated storage tank, and 2-inch through 12-inch water mains.

The water treatment plant (WTP) is located in the same building as Well #2 and treats only this well. It consists of an aerator, two filters, and a small detention tank. Chlorine is added to the water before it reaches the distribution system. Firm capacity is currently provided to the system from Well #1, which is supplied to the water system separately. The existing WTP is about 60 years old and had major replacements in 1979. The filter media was most recently replaced in 1996 and has a typical lifespan of approximately 20 years. Rudd's water supply meets all primary drinking water standards at this time, however due to aging equipment, the treatment plant is in need of repair or replacement in the near future.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to construct a new water treatment plant to enhance their reliability and to replace aging equipment to continue to safely and reliably operate the City of Rudd's water supply system for at least the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The water treatment plant improvements project consists of the construction of a new water treatment plant (WTP) and the abandonment of the existing WTP for the City of Rudd. The project involves the construction of a new treatment plant adjacent to the existing WTP. The new WTP will be updated with facilities that can treat all the current and any future wells in Rudd.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: The City considered the following alternatives: connecting to a nearby water system or construction of a new water treatment plant. In the case of construction of a new water treatment plant, the City also considered various water treatment alternatives such as lime softening, oxidation/filtration, or ion exchange.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the need to improve the existing aging water treatment system. The construction of a new water treatment plant was selected as it was the most cost effective and provides a long term solution to the current water supply needs in the City of Rudd.

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

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on August 11, 2020 at 7:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Nora Springs/Rockford Register on July 1, 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. 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#200434036), 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 Archaeological Desktop 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 project area is currently existing city-owned property. 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 flood plain provided all necessary flood plain 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. No significant impact to surface water quality, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected to result from this project.

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 Rudd. No significant farmlands will be impacted. This project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water

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 maintained water quality and quantity for the citizens of Rudd. A catastrophic loss of water supply could result in City-wide health impacts due to a lack of sanitation and the use of other water sources that may not meet Federal drinking water standards.

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 impact the 100-year flood plain provided all necessary flood plain 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.
- The project will not have a significant impact to surface water quality, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats.

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.



Casey Laskowski

Environmental Review Specialist

State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Rudd
Section: 18, Township: 96 N, Range: 17 W
Date: 1971
Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet



North

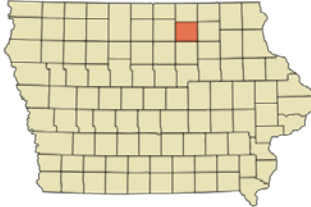
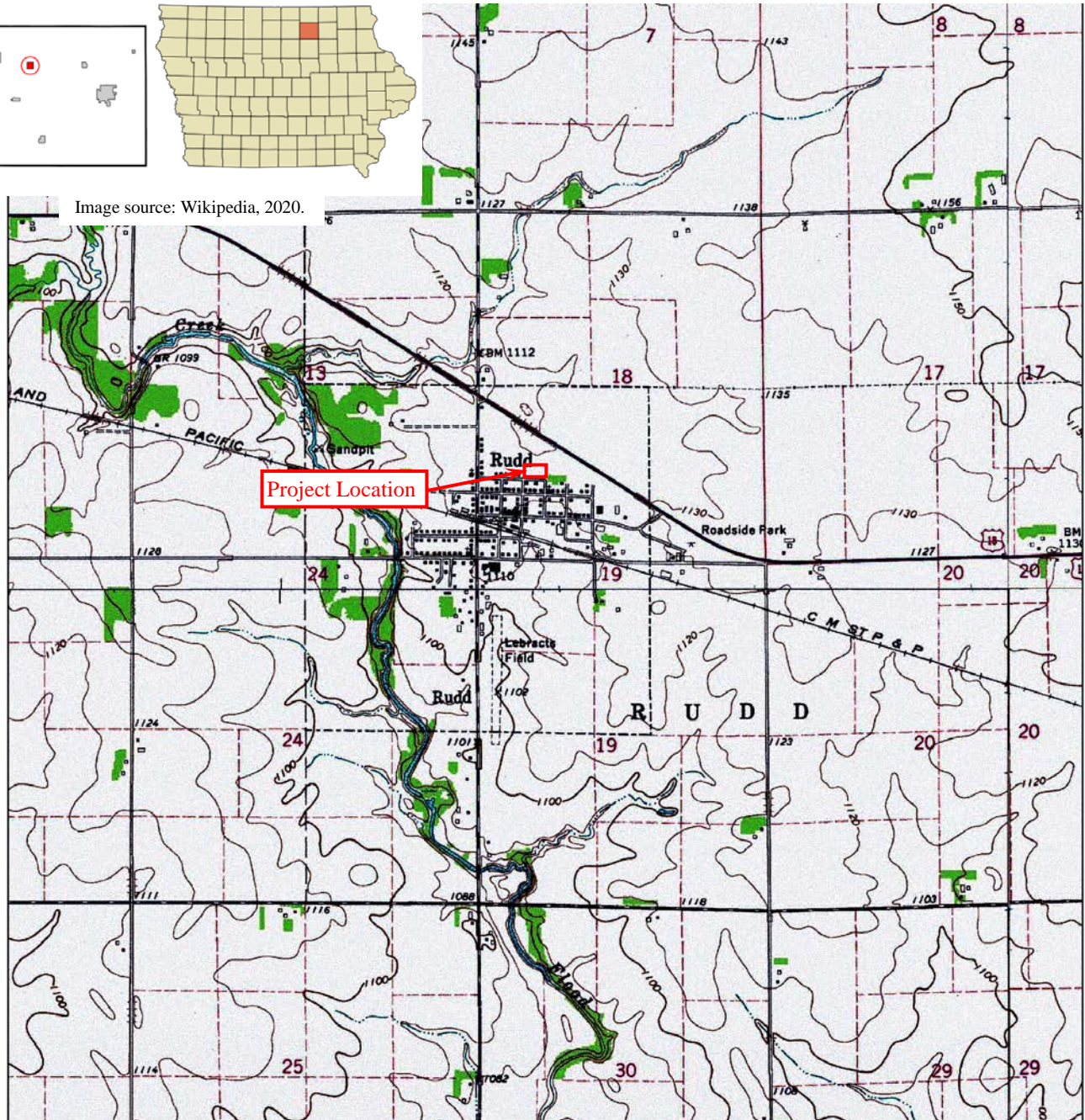


Image source: Wikipedia, 2020.



USGS Topographic Map

Rudd Drinking Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
Rudd, IA



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

Location information provided by Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc



North



Aerial Photograph

Rudd Drinking Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
Rudd, IA



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