

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 29, 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 Sioux City
County: Woodbury
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-97-18-DWSRF-007
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2017-0486

The City of Sioux City, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their water supply system. 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 Sioux City is located in Woodbury County, Iowa approximately 97 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska and 117 miles west of Fort Dodge, Iowa. The population of Sioux City according to the 2010 US Census was 82,684. The design population equivalent for the year 2037, or 89,490 persons.

The City of Sioux City owns and operates two water treatment facilities with a maximum production capacity of 38.5 million gallons per day (MGD). There are five pressure zones within the City and a total of about 490 miles of pressure main that serve the community. Pressures in the system range from 30psi to 150psi and are generated by a series of 10 water storage reservoirs and 4 active booster pump stations.

The system has two ground storage reservoirs located in Grandview Park. Each tank was designed as a 4 million gallon concrete structure and are noted as Grandview Tank North and Grandview Tank South. The reservoirs were constructed in 1904. In approximately 1992-1993, the south reservoir was taken out of service per the recommendation of the City Engineering Division and consulting engineers. This was based on observed structural deterioration. At that time a liner was added to the interior of the north reservoir to protect it to prolong its life. The 2001 Water System Master Plan by Olsson Associates included an inspection report from 1999 by others for the north reservoir, noting that the tank liner appeared in good condition. However, there was some uncertainty of the concrete wall condition behind the liner since the structure was not visible. More recently, the City staff has noted the north reservoir is beginning to experience considerable cracking around the base and believe this reservoir is nearing the end of its useful life. The north tank is a critical component in the water system.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the water storage facilities to enhance their reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete structures in order to continue to safely and reliably operate the City of Sioux City's water storage system for at least the next 20 years. The proposed project involves the demolition of Grandview Tank South, construction of a new reservoir to the south of the existing tanks, and demolition of Grandview Tank North. Associated piping and utility adjustments will also be made for this project.

The project will maintain water quality and adequate water pressure for the citizens of Sioux City. A catastrophic loss of water supply could result in health impacts due to a lack of sanitation and the use of other water sources that may not meet Federal drinking water standards. The new elevated storage tank will also 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. Impacts to Historic Properties will be taken into account provided that the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) are carried out. 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
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Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

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