

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

November 3, 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 Ames
County: Story
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-85-21-DWSRF-009
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2020-0437

The City of Ames, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their drinking water infrastructure. 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 Ames is located in Story County, Iowa approximately 42 miles west of Marshalltown, Iowa and 37 miles north of Des Moines, Iowa. The population of Ames according to the 2010 US Census was 58,965. The design population equivalent for the year 2030 is approximately 60,500.

Currently, the city's water supply is owned and operated by the City of Ames. The water treatment plant relies on a network of 22 portable supply wells as the source of drinking water for the community. The City of Ames currently utilizes four well fields. These well fields pull water from the Ames Aquifer. The 22 wells range in depth from 76' to 146', and have a capacity of 15 million gallons per day (MGD). A capacity of 15 MGD is not practical for long-term use and

as old wells fail and need to be replaced and as demand for treated water increases, additional wells must be drilled.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the current drinking water system infrastructure to enhance the overall reliability, increase capacity and to replace again wells in the downtown well field to safely and reliably operate the City of Ames drinking water system for at least the next 20 years.

The proposed project consists of the construction of a new well field consisting of three new water supply wells. The proposed project also includes the construction of new water pipelines to bring water from the wells to the water treatment plant south of 13th St. The water pipelines will consist of a 7,600 feet long, 24-inch diameter, raw water main that will tie the wells with the water treatment plant and a 2,000 feet long buried power transmission line, which will run from a utility electrical service and new generator at the southeast corner of Inis Grove Park to the well field. In addition, new fiber optic lines will be installed south of 13th Street.

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 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 as long as conditions are met. 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, 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): Mark Duben, HDR
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
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, 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
The Ames Tribune

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 Ames
County: Story
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-85-21-DWSRF-009
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2020-0437

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Ames is located in Story County, Iowa approximately 42 miles west of Marshalltown, Iowa and 37 miles north of Des Moines, Iowa.

Population: The population of Ames according to the 2010 US Census was 58,965. The design population equivalent for the year 2030 is approximately 60,500.

Current Source of Water: Currently, the city's water supply is owned and operated by the City of Ames. The water treatment plant relies on a network of 22 portable supply wells as the source of drinking water for the community.

Current Well System: The City of Ames currently utilizes four well fields. These well fields pull water from the Ames Aquifer. The 22 wells range in depth from 76' to 146', and have a capacity of 15 million gallons per day (MGD). A capacity of 15 MGD is not practical for long-term use and as old wells fail and need to be replaced and as demand for treated water increases, additional wells must be drilled.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the current drinking water system infrastructure to enhance the overall reliability, increase capacity and to

replace again wells in the downtown well field to safely and reliably operate the City of Ames drinking water system for at least the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed project consists of the construction of a new well field consisting of three new water supply wells. The proposed project also includes the construction of new water pipelines to bring water from the wells to the water treatment plant south of 13th St. The water pipelines will consist of a 7,600 feet long, 24-inch diameter, raw water main that will tie the wells with the water treatment plant and a 2,000 feet long buried power transmission line, which will run from a utility electrical service and new generator at the southeast corner of Inis Grove Park to the well field. In addition, new fiber optic lines will be installed south of 13th Street.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: After review of the current drinking water infrastructure, the City identified the water supply wells of greatest concern. A no action alternative is not viable due to future system capacity requirements for Ames as population and growth continues.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The City has prioritized eliminating underperforming and aging wells. The construction of the 3 new water supply wells and installation of the 7,600 feet long pipeline will increase the integrity of the water distribution system during future growth and during times of drought.

The project site was selected for the availability of land, proximity to existing infrastructure, engineering criteria, capital cost, 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 October 27, 2020 at 6:00PM. The public notice of this hearing was published in The Ames Tribune on September 23, 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
- Natural Resources Conservation 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
Ames Historical Society

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), 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#210585251), that this undertaking will result in “no historic properties affected with conditions” 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: 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 provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. 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. The proposed project is within the present corporate limits of Ames 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 maintained water quality and quantity for the citizens of Ames. 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 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 as long as conditions are met. 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, 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

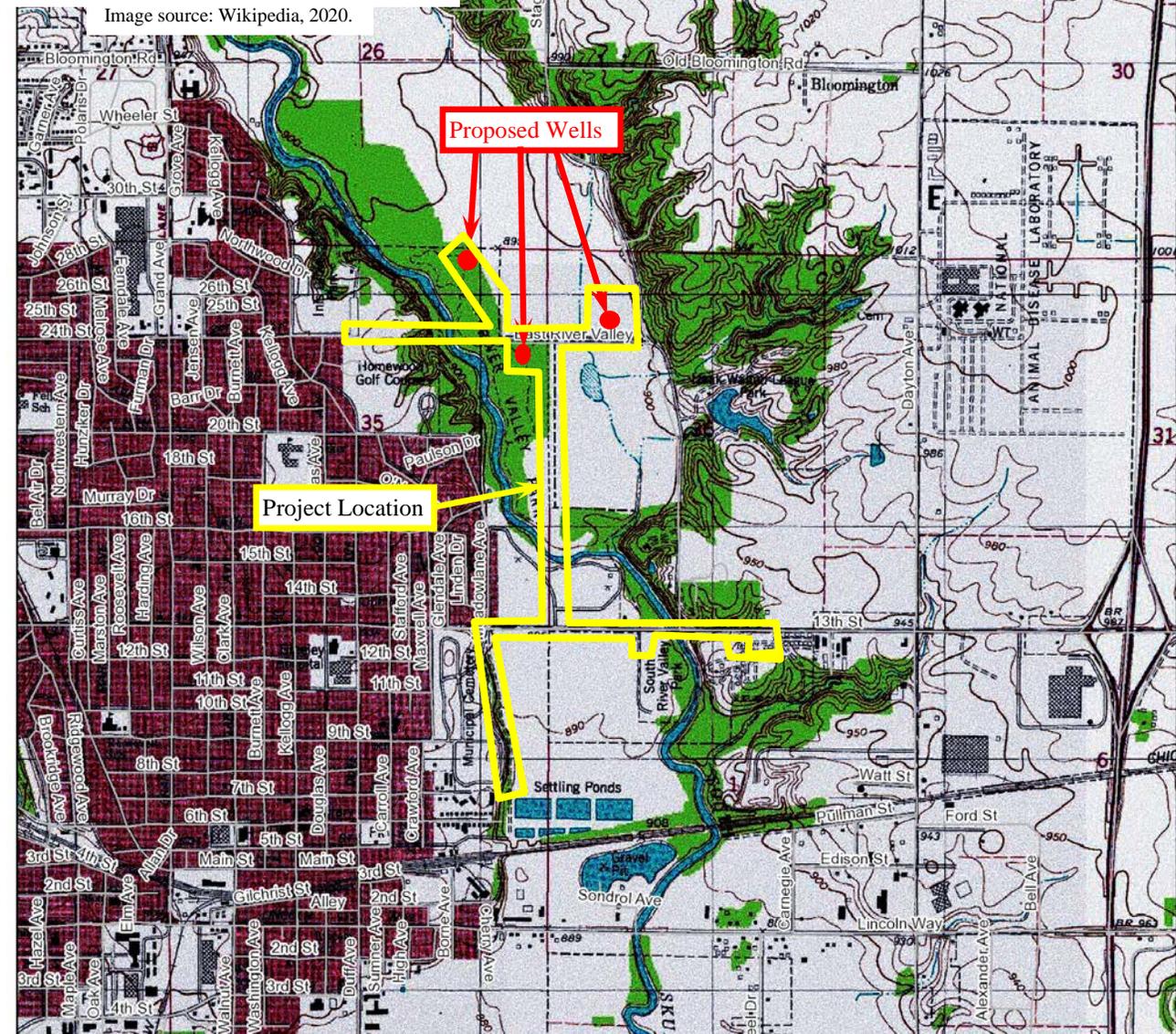
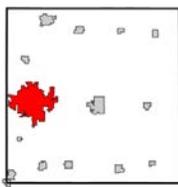
State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Ames East
Section: 35, Township: 84 N, Range: 24 W
Date: 1975
Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet



North



USGS Topographic Map

Ames Drinking Water Infrastructure Upgrade
Ames, IA

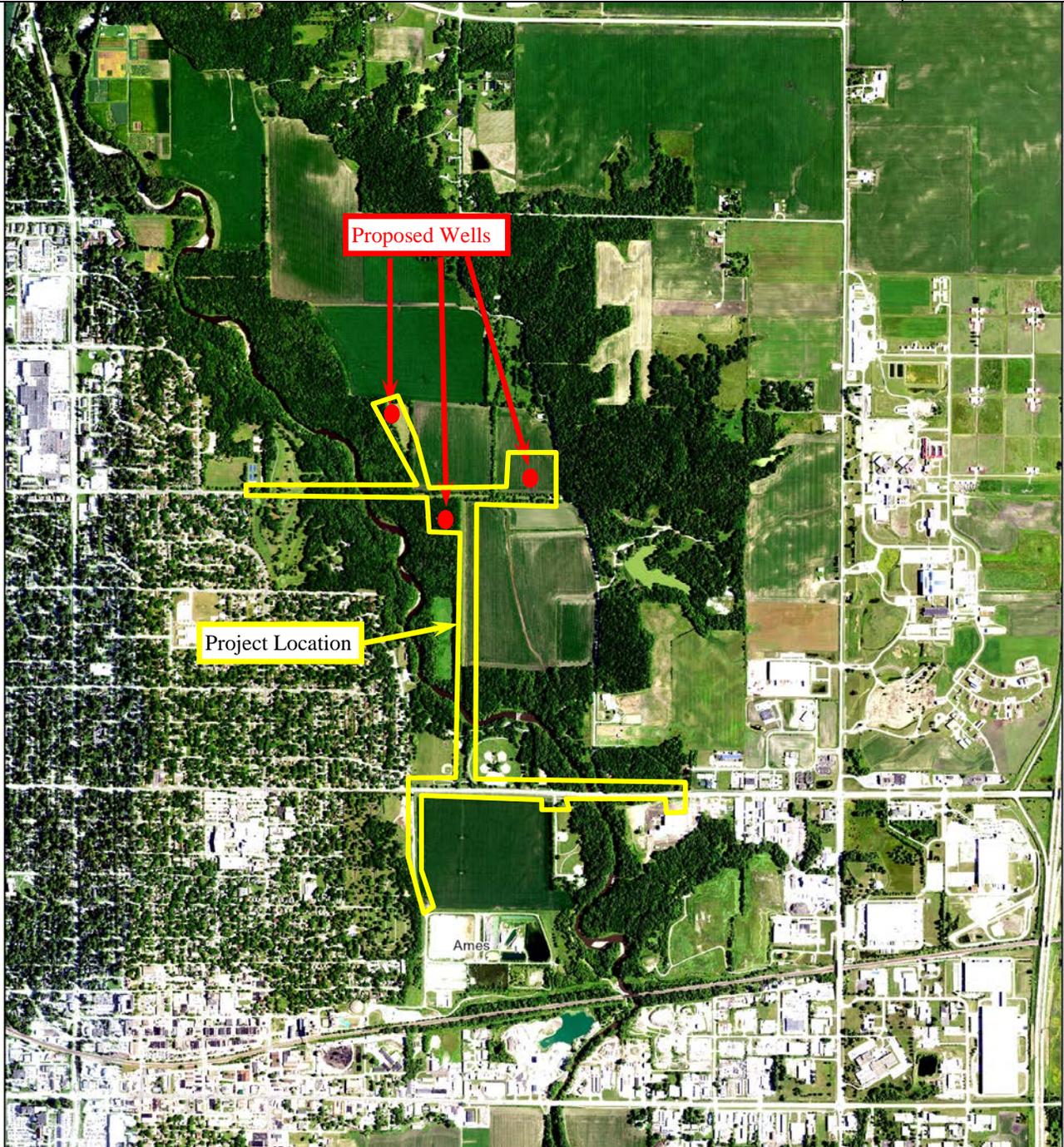


State Revolving Fund
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Location information provided by HDR
2017



North



Aerial Photograph

Ames Drinking Water Infrastructure Upgrade
Ames, IA



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