

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

June 24, 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 Miles
County: Jackson
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1920966 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: S2019-0420A

The City of Miles, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater treatment plant. 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 Miles is located in Jackson County, Iowa approximately 20 miles east of Maquoketa, Iowa and 20 miles north of Clinton, Iowa. The population of Miles according to the 2010 US Census was 445. The design population equivalent for the year 2039 is 514. The existing wastewater treatment facility for the City of Miles is an activated sludge facility including an aeration basin, clarifiers, and polishing pond. This existing plant was originally constructed in 1968 and has reached the end of its useful life. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' most recent Facility Inspection dated, February 1, 2019, noted the existing facility has demonstrated an inability to meet discharge limits for ammonia, TSS, CBOD5, pH, and E. coli. Several commercial buildings and residences are within 200-400 feet of the existing treatment facilities, providing little room for expansion at the existing site. Given the condition of the existing plant and its inability to meet current discharge limits, a new treatment facility is needed in an alternate area.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to enhance their reliability and add appropriate treatment in order to safely and reliably operate the City of Miles' wastewater system for at least the next 20 years. The proposed project includes construction a new pump station, force main, and a new three-cell controlled discharge lagoon treatment facility at a new site which is currently farm ground. This will also include a new discharge point for the treated wastewater. Once the new treatment plant is operational, the existing treatment plant will be demolished.

The treated wastewater from the existing facility discharges into the Elk River, which flows directly into the Mississippi River. The treated wastewater from the proposed facility will discharge into an unnamed tributary of the Elk River. It has a use stream designation of Class A2, B(WW-2). 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 in which users do not swim or float in the water body while on a boating activity. 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 Miles, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants CBOD5, TSS, ammonia, and E. coli 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. 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 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) and the NPDES wastewater discharge permit are 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
Environmental Specialist
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): IIW, P. C.
ECIA
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health

Sarah Peterson, 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 Preston Times newspaper

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Miles
County: Jackson
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1920966 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: S2019-0420A

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Miles is located in Jackson County, Iowa approximately 20 miles east of Maquoketa, Iowa and 20 miles north of Clinton, Iowa.

Population: The population of Miles according to the 2010 US Census was 445. The design population equivalent for the year 2039 is 514.

Current Waste Treatment: The existing wastewater treatment facility for the City of Miles is an activated sludge facility including an aeration basin, clarifiers, and polishing pond. This existing plant was originally constructed in 1968 and has reached the end of its useful life. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources' most recent Facility Inspection dated, February 1, 2019, noted the existing facility has demonstrated an inability to meet discharge limits for ammonia, TSS, CBOD5, pH, and E. coli. Several commercial buildings and residences are within 200-400 feet of the existing treatment facilities, providing little room for expansion at the existing site. Given the condition of the existing plant and its inability to meet current discharge limits, a new treatment facility is needed in an alternate area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to enhance their reliability and add appropriate treatment in order

to safely and reliably operate the City of Miles' wastewater system for at least the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed project includes construction a new pump station, force main, and a new three-cell controlled discharge lagoon treatment facility at a new site which is currently farm ground. This will also include a new discharge point for the treated wastewater. Once the new treatment plant is operational, the existing treatment plant will be demolished.

Receiving Stream: The treated wastewater from the existing facility discharges into the Elk River, which flows directly into the Mississippi River. The treated wastewater from the proposed facility will discharge into an unnamed tributary of the Elk River. It has a use stream designation of Class A2, B(WW-2). 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 in which users do not swim or float in the water body while on a boating activity. 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: Several alternatives were considered including modification of the existing treatment facility, construction of a new facility at the existing site, construction of a new controlled discharge lagoon at an alternate site, and construction of a new connection to the City of Preston for wastewater treatment.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the advancing age of the existing wastewater treatment facility and its current inability to meet discharge requirements. While a connection with the City of Preston was discussed, the City of Preston did not form any inter-municipal agreement with the City of Miles. The selected alternative is the construction of a new controlled discharge lagoon at an alternate site. This was selected on an evaluation of the total project cost, the expected annual cost, and total present worth.

The project site was selected for engineering criteria, separation distances from businesses and residences, soil characteristics, topography, and proximity to a new discharge location as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on February 2, 2021 at 7:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in The Preston Times on December 16, 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
Jackson County Historical Preservation 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. 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 (R&C#210649581), 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 will be 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. 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. By complying with the NPDES wastewater discharge permit, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

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 as per the Farmland Conversion Rating Form. 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 Miles, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants CBOD5, TSS, 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, 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 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) and the NPDES wastewater discharge permit are 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

Environmental Review Specialist

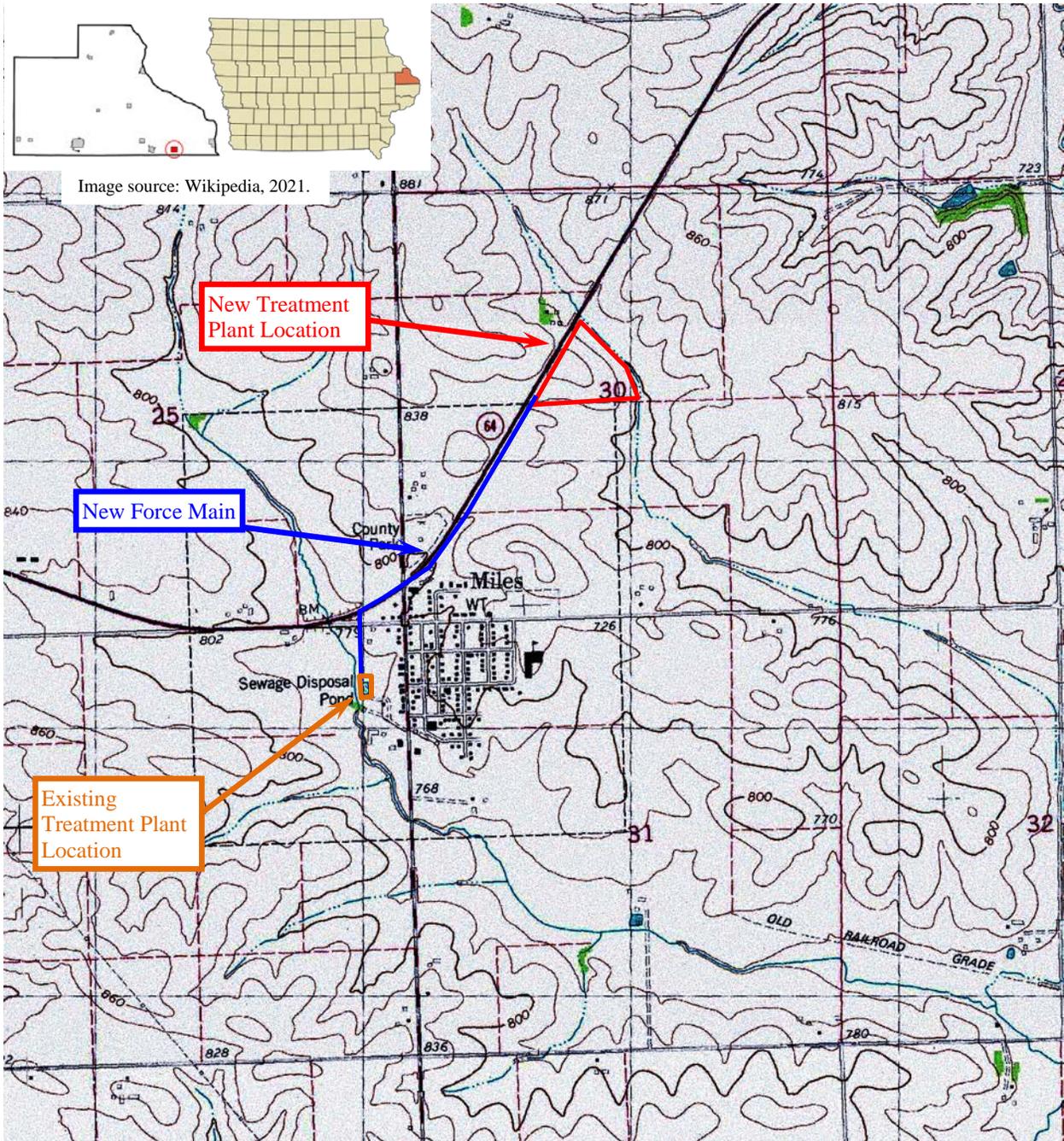
State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Miles
Section: 30, Township: 84N, Range: 06E
Section: 25, 36, Township: 84N, Range: 05E
Date: 1980
Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet



North



USGS Topographic Map

Miles New Wastewater Treatment Plant
Miles, IA

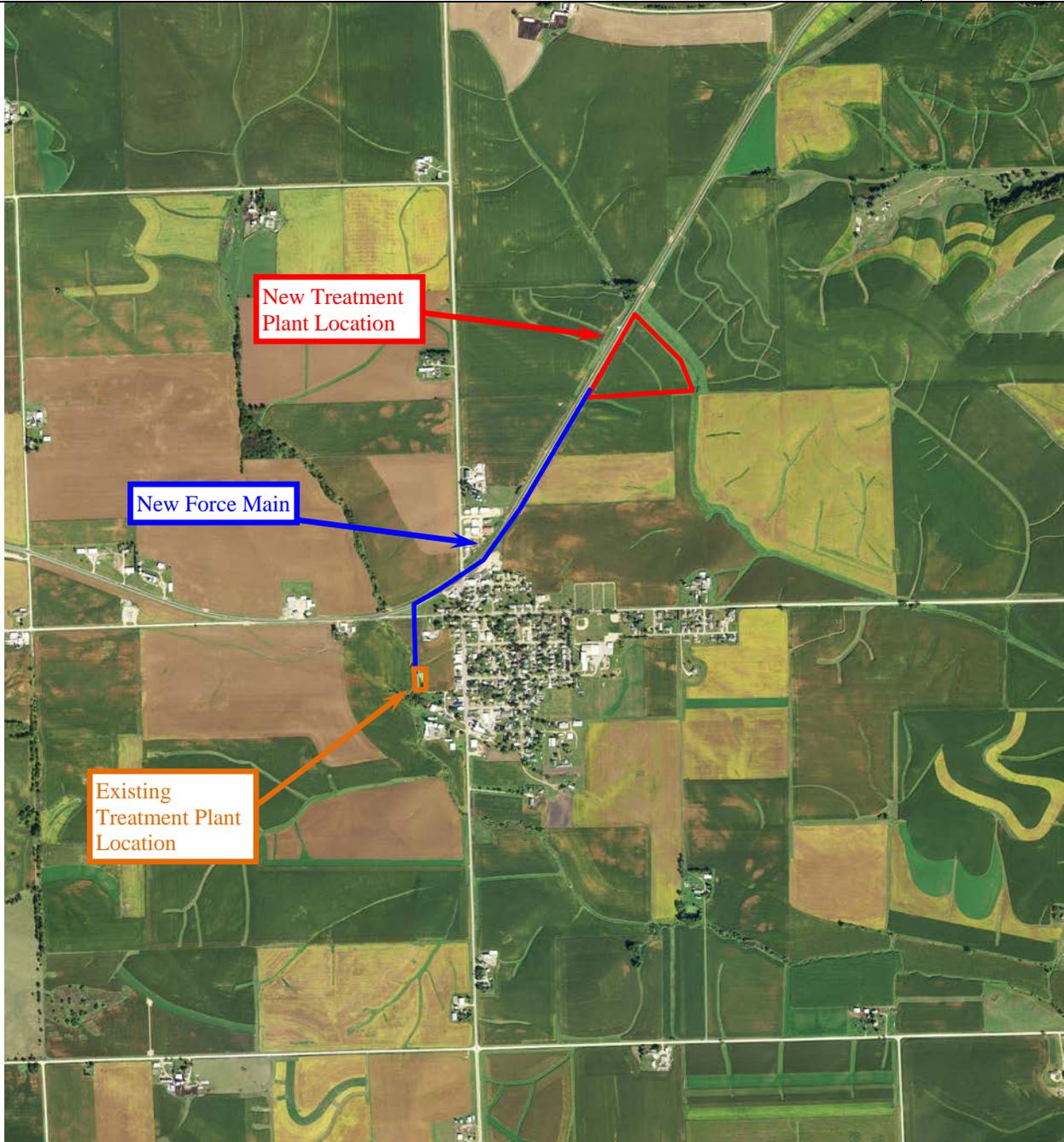


State Revolving Fund
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Location information provided by IIW Engineering



North



Aerial Photograph

Miles New Wastewater Treatment Plant
Miles, IA



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