

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

September 16, 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 Humeston
County: Wayne
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1921014 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: S2018-0178A

The City of Humeston, 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 Humeston is located in Wayne County, Iowa approximately 25 miles northeast of Leon, Iowa and 60 miles south-southeast of Des Moines, Iowa. The population of Humeston according to the 2010 US Census was 494. The design population equivalent for the year 2041 is 494 as the population is expected to stay at or below this population over the next twenty years.

The existing wastewater treatment facility is located on the north side of the City of Humeston. This treatment facility was originally constructed in the 1960s and modified in 1986. The facility is currently a three-cell aerated lagoon with floating aerators; the first pond is a single cell and the second pond is divided into two cells by a floating baffle. In August 2017, a new discharge permit was issued which included new effluent limits for ammonia nitrogen, dissolved oxygen,

and E.coli and would become effective December 1, 2021. The existing facility is not capable of consistently meeting these limits.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to meet new discharge limits in order to continue safely and reliably operating the City of Humeston's wastewater system for the next 20 years. They are proposing to put in a UV disinfection system 5'x30', blower building 20'x30', and possibly an ammonia removal system 75'x200'. According to the consultant, if the ammonia removal system is needed the disturbed ground will only be within the WWTF property. The additional project area just outside of the property would only be used for staging and access. The treated wastewater from the proposed facility will discharge to an unnamed creek, a tributary to the Chariton River. The outfall location will not change as part of this project. Positive environmental effects will be improved treatment of the wastewater from the City of Humeston, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants 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 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 any

necessary 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
Environmental Specialist
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Garden & Associates
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, 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
Humeston New Era newspaper

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Humeston
County: Wayne
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1921014 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: S2018-0178A

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Humeston is located in Wayne County, Iowa approximately 25 miles northeast of Leon, Iowa and 60 miles south-southeast of Des Moines, Iowa.

Population: The population of Humeston according to the 2010 US Census was 494. The design population equivalent for the year 2041 is 494 as the population is expected to stay at or below this population over the next twenty years.

Current Waste Treatment: The existing wastewater treatment facility is located on the north side of the City of Humeston. This treatment facility was originally constructed in the 1960s and modified in 1986. The facility is currently a three-cell aerated lagoon with floating aerators; the first pond is a single cell and the second pond is divided into two cells by a floating baffle. In August 2017, a new discharge permit was issued which included new effluent limits for ammonia nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, and E.coli and would become effective December 1, 2021. The existing facility is not capable of consistently meeting these limits.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to meet new discharge limits in order to continue safely and reliably operating the City of Humeston's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: They are proposing to put in a UV disinfection system 5'x30', blower building 20'x30', and possibly an ammonia removal system 75'x200'. According to the consultant, if the ammonia removal system is needed the disturbed ground will only be within the WWTF property. The additional project area just outside of the property would only be used for staging and access.

Receiving Stream: The treated wastewater from the proposed facility will discharge to an unnamed creek, a tributary to the Chariton River. The outfall location will not change as part of this project.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: Several options for additional treatment were considered including UV disinfection, supplemental ammonia removal, cold weather storage, controlled discharge lagoons or some appropriate combination of them.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the existing discharge permit limits, which the existing facility cannot meet. Construction of UV disinfection to treat for E. coli was selected as a cost effective treatment; additional ammonia treatment, if needed, will be supplemental ammonia removal which was selected on the basis that no additional land would be needed for this option. The project site was selected for the availability of land, proximity to existing facilities, engineering criteria and sequencing of treatment as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on September 2, 2021 at 5:31PM at the City Hall. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Humeston New Era, a weekly newspaper, on August 3, 2021. 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. The proposed project may disturb soils over an area greater than one acre; if that is the case, 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, if necessary, 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) 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#210593338), 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: 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. 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 proposed project is at the existing wastewater treatment facility. The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing

residential areas. No farmlands will be converted away from agricultural production. 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 improved treatment of the wastewater from the City of Humeston, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants 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 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 any necessary 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

Environmental Review Specialist

State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Humeston
Section: 10, Township: 70 N, Range: 23 W
Date: 1982
Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet



North

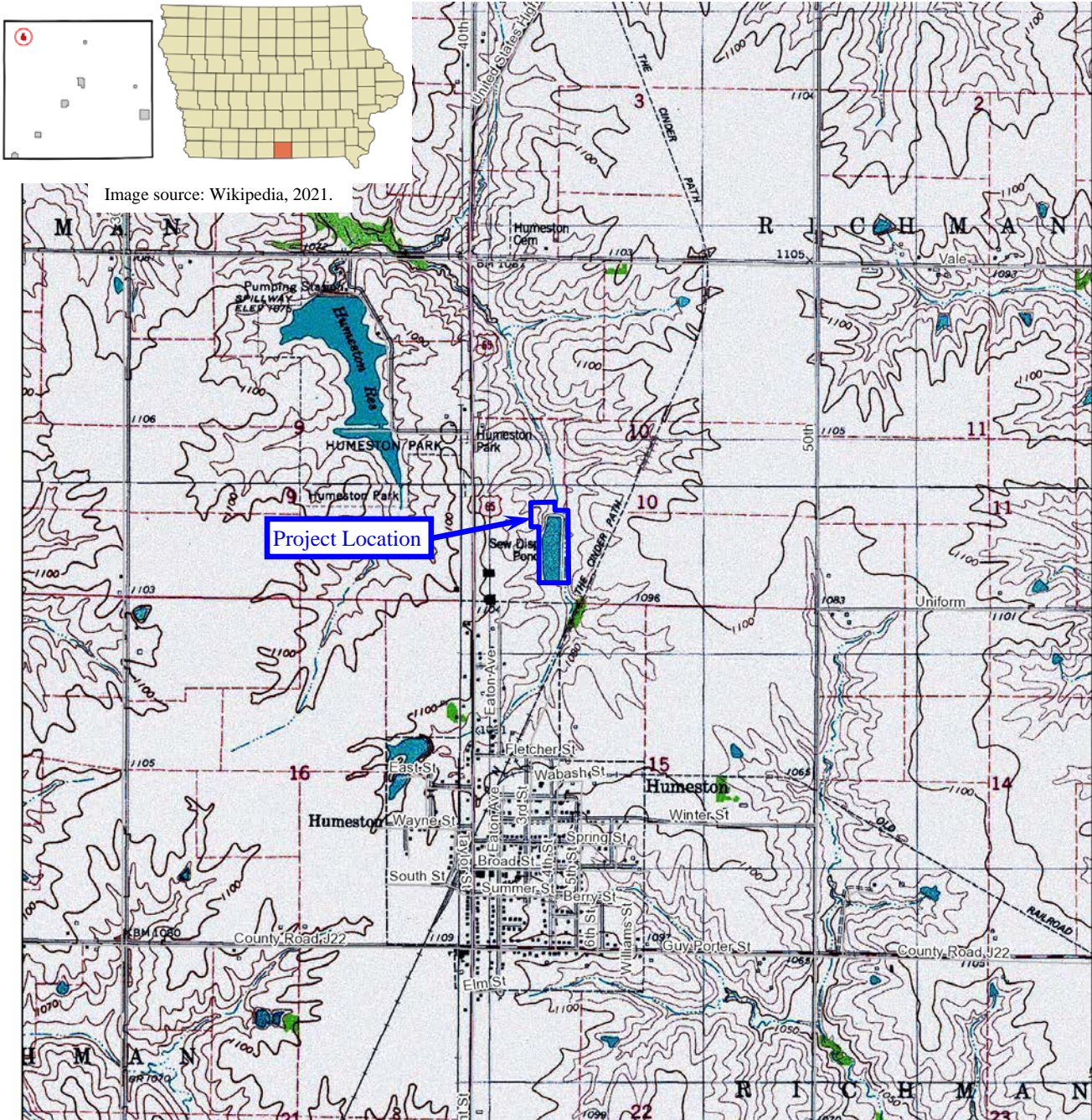


Image source: Wikipedia, 2021.

USGS Topographic Map

Humeston Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Humeston, IA

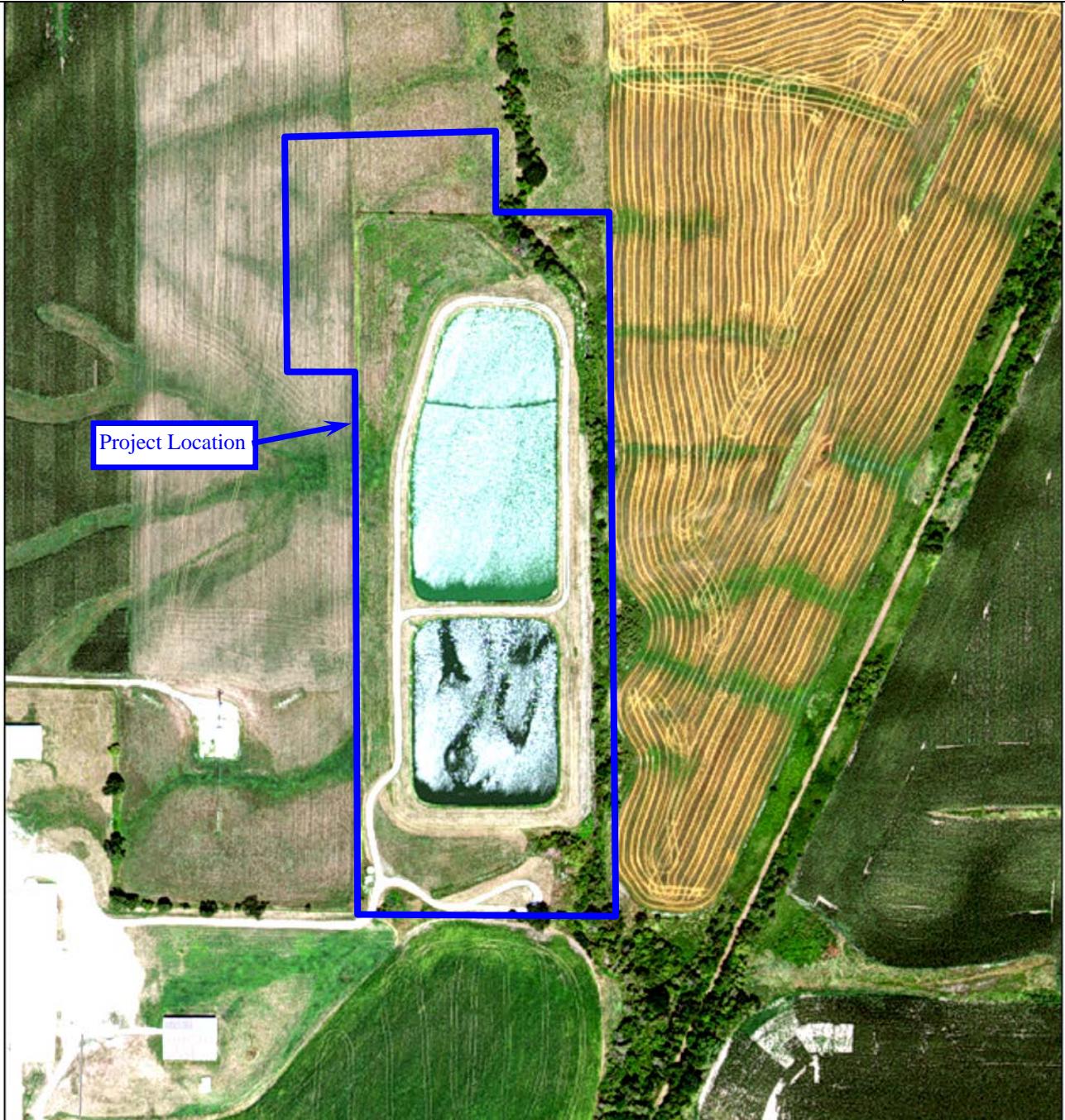


State Revolving Fund
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Location information provided by Garden & Associates, Ltd.
2017



North



Aerial Photograph

Humeston Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
Humeston, IA



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