

**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**

February 23, 2023

**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 Mingo  
**County:** Jasper  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1921012 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** W2021-0260A

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

The City of Mingo, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater 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 Mingo is located in Jasper County, Iowa approximately 30 miles northeast of Des Moines, Iowa and 91 miles southwest of Waterloo, Iowa. The population of Mingo according to the 2010 US Census was 302. The design population equivalent for the year 2041 is 400.

Currently, the existing wastewater treatment system consists of a two-cell controlled discharge lagoon. The lagoon effluent discharges to Indian Creek. The lagoon consists of two square cells, each measuring 400 feet by 300 feet at the current maximum pond water depth. The cells are 8 feet deep to the top of the cells. Both cells are constructed at the same elevation. The inner embankments of the lagoon cells have a slope of 3:1. The 2016 Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project, included the removal and replacement piping and manhole structures

within the existing lagoons. The biosolids of both existing lagoon cells were removed and land applied. The lagoon treatment facilities were constructed in approximately 1972, making it 50 years old. As a result, the facility is not built to operate with current and projected City populations. The existing two-cell lagoon does not have adequate storage for 180 days of wastewater flows and does not currently provide for compliance with NPDES permit limit for E-Coli.

The Mingo sanitary sewer collection system is located over a relatively large vertical range from the high area located in the west side of the City south of Main Street along Station Street, to the low area located along Main Street near the lift station on the east end of the City. Between 2009 and 2013 the entire sanitary sewer collection system, including all sewer mains and manholes, was rehabilitated. The sewer mains were lined with cast-in-place pipe liner and the manholes were spray coated with both a cementitious and epoxy lining. The original lift station was removed and replaced in 2010.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to meet enhanced compliance limits, increase capacity, and reliably operate the City of Mingo's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

The proposed wastewater treatment improvements project consists of converting the existing two-cell controlled discharge lagoon to an enhanced aerated lagoon continuous discharge facility with UV disinfection. Excavation for new submerged attached growth reactors will utilize backhoes and other equipment.

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 permit terms 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) 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 [nicole.osborn@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:nicole.osborn@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-321-7601.

Sincerely,

Nicole Osborn  
Environmental Specialist  
502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment  
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Todd Penisten, Veenstra & Kimm Inc.  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska  
Edward Boling, 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, 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  
Jasper County Tribune

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**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

***PROJECT IDENTIFICATION***

**Applicant:** City of Mingo  
**County:** Jasper  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1921012 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** W2021-0260A

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

***COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION***

**Location:** The City of Mingo is located in Jasper County, Iowa approximately 30 miles northeast of Des Moines, Iowa and 91 miles southwest of Waterloo, Iowa.

**Population:** The population of Mingo according to the 2010 US Census was 302. The design population equivalent for the year 2041 is 400.

**Current Waste Treatment:** The existing wastewater treatment system consists of a two-cell controlled discharge lagoon. The lagoon effluent discharges to Indian Creek. The lagoon consists of two square cells, each measuring 400 feet by 300 feet at the current maximum pond water depth. The cells are 8 feet deep to the top of the cells. Both cells are constructed at the same elevation. The inner embankments of the lagoon cells have a slope of 3:1. The 2016 Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project, included the removal and replacement piping and manhole structures within the existing lagoons. The biosolids of both existing lagoon cells were removed and land applied. The lagoon treatment facilities were constructed in approximately 1972, making it 50 years old. As a result, the facility is not built to operate with current and projected City populations. The existing two-cell lagoon does not have adequate storage for 180 days of wastewater flows and does not currently provide for compliance with NPDES permit limit for E-Coli.

**Current Waste Collection System:** The sanitary sewer collection system is located over a relatively large vertical range from the high area located in the west side of the City south of Main Street along Station Street, to the low area located along Main Street near the lift station on the east end of the City. Between 2009 and 2013 the entire sanitary sewer collection system, including all sewer mains and manholes, was rehabilitated. The sewer mains were lined with cast-in-place pipe liner and the manholes were spray coated with both a cementitious and epoxy lining. The original lift station was removed and replaced in 2010.

## ***PROJECT DESCRIPTION***

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to meet enhanced compliance limits, increase capacity, and reliably operate the City of Mingo's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

**Proposed Improvements:** The wastewater treatment improvements project consists of converting the existing two-cell controlled discharge lagoon to an enhanced aerated lagoon continuous discharge facility with UV disinfection. Excavation for new submerged attached growth reactors will utilize backhoes and other equipment.

**Receiving Stream:** The treated wastewater from the proposed facility will continuously discharge to Indian Creek, tributary to the Skunk River. It has a use stream designation of A-1, B(WW2). This is classified as a water stream. Class A1 waters are primary contact recreational use waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risks of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. Such activities would include, but not be limited to, swimming, diving, water skiing, and water contact recreational canoeing. Waters designated Class B(WW2) 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:** A total of two alternatives were identified for potential improvements to the existing two-cell wastewater treatment lagoon. The alternatives would be designed to bring the City of Mingo into compliance with the current NPDES permit. The two alternatives evaluated as part of this Facility Plan Update are as follows:

Alternative 1 – Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR): This alternative would include the construction of a new sequencing batch reactor (SBR) treatment facility for the City of Mingo. An SBR is a type of activated sludge treatment that treats wastewater using a batch type of process. Aeration and settling of the wastewater occur within the same process tank as opposed to conventional wastewater treatment plant that has separate tanks for accomplishing aeration and settling. The cost estimate for this alternative is \$6,400,000.

Alternative 2 – SAGR Enhanced Aerated Lagoon: Under this alternative, the existing two-cell controlled discharge lagoon would be converted to a new SAGR enhanced aerated lagoon facility. The existing west lagoon cell would be used for a partial mix aerated lagoon. The existing east lagoon cell would be split into two cells through the installation of a floating baffle curtain. The portion of the east lagoon cell isolated by the floating baffle curtain would be used as a settling basin. The remaining portion of the east lagoon cell would be used for a second partial mix aerated lagoon. Effluent from the settling cell would flow to the SAGR units. These are aerated gravel reactors that remove ammonia from the wastewater under low temperature conditions. Flow from the SAGR units would then be disinfected with ultraviolet light. The effluent sewer from the existing two-cell lagoons would be utilized to discharge effluent wastewater to Indian Creek. For the purposes of evaluating alternatives it is assumed the lagoon cells would be constructed with the SAGR enhancement to meet the ammonia nitrogen limits. A new blower building and aeration system would also be constructed under this alternative. The cost estimate for this alternative is \$1,666,500.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The Alternative 1 – Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) is not considered to be feasible due to the estimated project cost and life cycle costs. Therefore, Alternative 2 – SAGR Enhanced Aerated Lagoon is recommended for this project.

### ***MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT***

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on January 17th, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Jasper County Tribune on December 1, 2022. 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 Flood Plain Management 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 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”).

This project may require the disposal of sewage sludge. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the disposal of any sewage sludge complies with applicable requirements found in 40 CFR Part 503 and 567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 67.

**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#220850264), that this undertaking will result in “no historic properties affected – no properties” 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 protected 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 Flood Plain Management Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain provided all permit terms 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 Mingo 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

**Nondiscrimination:** All programs, projects, and activities undertaken by DNR in the SRF programs are subject to federal anti-discrimination laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

### ***POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT***

Positive environmental effects will be improved treatment of the wastewater from the City of Mingo, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants E. coli and nutrients 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.
- This 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 permit terms 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) 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” for wastewater relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time.

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**FIRST NAME LAST NAME**

Environmental Review Specialist

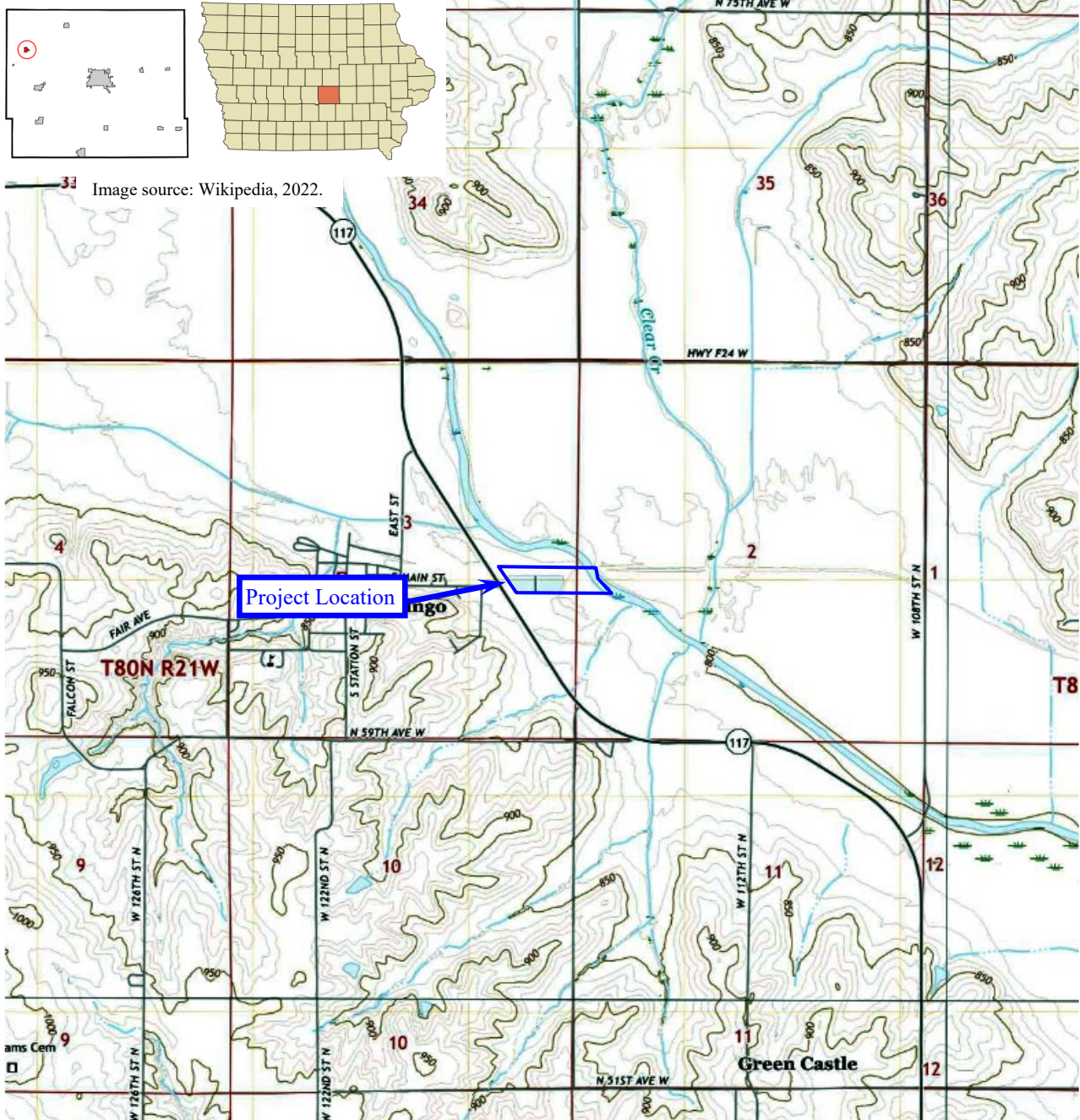
State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

**USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Mingo**  
**Section: 03, Township: 80 N, Range: 21 W**  
**Date: 1975**  
**Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet**



**North**



## USGS Topographic Map

Mingo Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements  
Mingo, IA

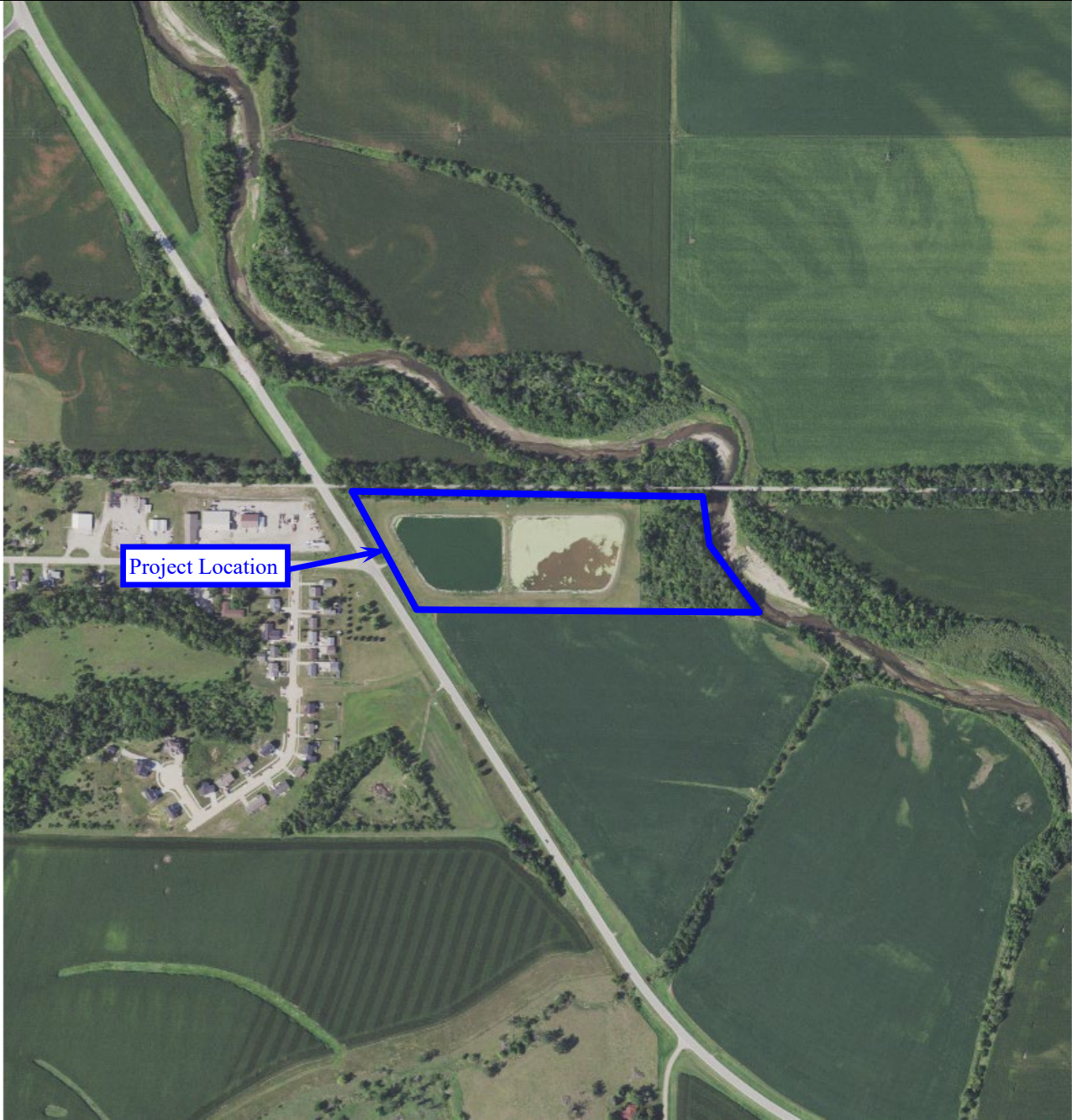


State Revolving Fund  
502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Location information provided by Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.



North



Project Location

### Aerial Photograph

Mingo Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements  
Mingo, IA



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502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
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