



**FEMA**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
CITY OF PLATTSMOUTH WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM  
Plattsmouth, Cass and Sarpy Counties, Nebraska  
Public Assistance Grant Program  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-4420-DR-NE**

The City of Plattsmouth has requested funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance to relocate or modify the potable Water Supply System that serves the City of Plattsmouth. FEMA proposes to provide funding for this project through its Public Assistance Program.

The project involves the abandonment of the existing water treatment plant and associated wells, and construction of a new watermain to transport potable water from a water treatment plant owned and operated by the Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) to the existing potable water distribution system in the City of Plattsmouth (Figure 3). MUD has stated that there is adequate capacity to service the existing and future residents of Plattsmouth as well as their existing customers. The work associated with this project involves the construction of approximately 7.5 miles of 20-inch diameter potable watermain from the MUD's Platte South Water Treatment Plant located along the north side of the Platte River, west of the intersection of South 36th Street and LaPlatte Road in, Sarpy County, NE (41.071329, -95.972490). The watermain would carry treated/potable water from the MUD plant to a connection point at the City's distribution system located near Avenue B and 16th Street in Plattsmouth, Cass County, Nebraska (41.013387, -95.898392). A small booster pump would be installed to provide necessary pressure for the water distribution. In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B – Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the construction of the new watermain connecting to the MUD's Platte South Water Treatment Plant and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Notice of the availability of the EA was available for agency and public review and comment for a period of 30 days. The public information process included a public notice with information about the Proposed Action. The public notice was posted on the FEMA website at [Region 7 - Environmental Documents and Public Notices | FEMA.gov](#), and the City of Plattsmouth website. No substantive comments were received.

The Proposed Action, as described in the EA, will not result in any significant adverse impacts individually or cumulatively to geology, soils and seismicity; prime farmland, climate change and resiliency, water quality, surface waters, floodplains, wetlands, vegetation, invasive species, fish, wildlife or avian species, threatened and endangered species; hazardous materials; public services and utilities; low income or minority populations; and cultural resources including archeology sites and historic structures. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, waters of the

United States, floodplains, air quality, terrestrial and aquatic environment, wetlands, traffic, visual resources, noise, and safety are anticipated. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

The project was coordinated with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) of applicable Indian tribes.

### **CONDITIONS**

The following conditions were developed to mitigate the potential impacts of this project and must be met as a condition of project approval. Failure to comply with these conditions and the conditions contained in the EA may jeopardize Federal funds:

1. The City is responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, state and federal permits and approvals.
2. The City will monitor ground disturbance during the construction phase, and if artifacts or human remains are found on site during construction or within potential borrow areas, the Nebraska SHPO and FEMA will be contacted immediately and work will cease in the area of discovery.
3. All fill/gravel should be obtained from a commercial source. Fill/gravel from non-commercial sources may require permits and/or additional SHPO consultation, and failure to obtain these prior to doing the work may jeopardize federal funding.
4. If deviations from the proposed scope of work result in substantial design changes, the need for additional ground disturbance, additional removal of vegetation, or in any other unanticipated changes to the physical environment, the City will contact FEMA, and a re-evaluation under NEPA and other applicable environmental laws will be conducted by FEMA.
5. A floodplain development permit will be required for the wellhead protection buildings from the permitting authority Cass County Zoning Department. The buildings will be constructed in accordance with the floodplain permit requirements. A Floodplain Permit from Sarpy and Cass Counties will be required for the temporary construction activities associated with the watermain and Raw Water Transmission Line construction work that would occur in the floodplain.
6. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be utilized during construction to avoid and minimize these potential temporary impacts. The project sponsor will be required to obtain a Construction Stormwater Permit for the project, which is part of the NDEE surface water quality protection program for non-point source discharge under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System water quality protection program.
7. Construction activities will minimize dust and particulate emissions through best management practices such as watering work site or other measures. Construction workers must adhere to safety requirements and utilize proper personal protective equipment such as masks to limit exposure to dust and disturbed soil as required.

8. Wetland impacts will be avoided where possible by relocating work areas to opposite sides of the Right of Way or using directional boring technologies. Wetlands that would be temporarily disturbed will be returned to pre-construction contours following construction and reseeded with native seed mix.
9. All conditions of the USACE permits related to wetland disturbances will be incorporated into the construction plans, including appropriate BMPs for erosion and sediment controls to ensure that indirect impacts from construction would be avoided.
10. Fencing and/or other barricades will be installed during construction activities to address the safety of nearby residents. Appropriate BMPs for dust control and erosion will be implemented during construction.
11. Coordination of road closures, detours and with other public service providers will be undertaken regularly to minimize impacts. Emergency Service providers will be notified during construction of activities that may impact response times enabling them to plan alternative routes.
12. Work zone traffic controls would be implemented in accordance with transportation safety standards as appropriate during construction. Appropriate signage and barriers would be placed prior to construction activities to alert pedestrians and motorists of project construction and any traffic pattern changes. Coordination with appropriate transportation agencies or authorities is recommended to ensure that appropriate standards and notifications are being made.
13. Construction will be limited to daytime hours to reduce noise impacts.
14. If working within the Rylander Park area, the Materials Management Plan (MMP), previously developed for Rhylander Park (2015, NDEE) will be utilized in the development a Construction Site Pollution Prevention Plan. Construction activities associated with the watermain alignment that take place along Rhylander Park will adhere to the requirements of the MMP. The MMP will be made available to design and construction managers, and all contractors working the site will be informed of the risks and responsibilities associated with working in this area.
15. A Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and a Spill Prevention Plan will be developed for the site to ensure that sediment and containments shall not become adrift in stormwater.
16. The drilling equipment utilized at the site will have self-contained drilling fluid technology to ensure that groundwater resources are protected.
17. Construction sites will be restored to preconstruction contours and reseeded where possible at the earliest possible time to restore native vegetation and wildlife habitat.
18. Disturbances to streams and wooded riparian areas will be avoided where possible and limited to the minimum disturbance necessary to minimize wildlife impacts. Riparian areas with woody vegetation will be avoided where possible using directional boring technologies.
19. Prior to commencement of construction activities, the project sponsor will determine if an eagle's nest is located within the vicinity of the construction zone. If an eagle's nest is visible from or identified within 660 feet (200 meters) of the construction zone, a permit may be required. If this is the case, the sub-grantee must contact FEMA and consult with the USFWS before work begins. Failure to do so may jeopardize federal funding.

20. In an effort to encourage the establishment of native plants within the project area, the project sponsor will consider incorporating the use of a native Tall Grass Prairie and Pollinator seed mixes where feasible along the work sites.
21. During construction, temporary erosion control measures would be used to eliminate soil erosion and the spread of invasive species. Topsoil excavated from trench excavation would be stockpiled for use after construction allowing the vegetation to regenerate to preconstruction conditions. All disturbed areas will be reseeded with native seed mix immediately after construction is completed. All seed mixes will be free of invasive plant seeds. Soil brought onto the site will be from areas that are free of invasive plants.

### **FINDINGS**

Based upon the conditions and information contained in the EA for the City of Plattsburgh Water Supply System Project and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA has determined that the proposed action would not have any significant adverse impacts on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

### **APPROVAL**

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Kate Stojavljevic  
Regional Environmental Officer

Date