



FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CITY OF PLATTSMOUTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
Plattsmouth, Cass County, 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 the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) serving the City of Plattsmouth, Nebraska to the Fourmile Industrial Park and to construct a new sewage force main to connect the existing citywide sewage collection system to the new WWTP. FEMA proposes to provide funding for this project through the Public Assistance Program.

The project is to relocate the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) serving the City of Plattsmouth, Nebraska to a city-owned 18-acre parcel of land located at the Fourmile Industrial Park. The proposed project would involve the construction of a new WWTP, onsite sludge storage tanks, a sludge loadout station, 4.2 miles of 18-inch diameter sewage force main (SFM), two pump stations, a new wastewater discharge pipe to Fourmile Creek, an administration building consisting of office spaces, laboratory, garage, control room for the plant control system and associated access roads, parking areas, and stormwater management infrastructure. The new infrastructure would connect the existing citywide sewage collection system to the new WWTP. The existing wastewater discharge pipe along the bank of the Missouri River and approximately 2,000 feet of wastewater conveyance line that carries the processed wastewater/effluent from the existing WWTP to the river would be abandoned as a result of this project. The existing sandbag flood protection wall that currently protects the plant will be removed as part of this project and the abandoned plant will be fenced off for security. 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 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 a new facility and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 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, the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 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. The Headworks Pump Station will be constructed with flood mitigation standards to protect the structure against flooding so that it continues to operate during flood events and potential impacts to water quality and aquatic resources are avoided. The City will obtain a floodplain development permit for the Headworks Pump Station from the permitting authority, the Cass County Zoning Department.
6. Construction activities will minimize dust and particulate emissions through best management practices such as watering the work site or other measures. Construction workers must adhere to safety requirements and utilize proper personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks to limit exposure to dust and disturbed soil as required.
7. Best Management Practices (BMP) that ensure temporary erosion and sedimentation and accidental spills from construction equipment do not occur must be utilized to protect water quality of surface waters during construction.
8. Wetlands that would be temporarily disturbed would be returned to pre-construction contours following construction and reseeded. Temporary erosion control measures would be used during construction to eliminate soil erosion and spread of invasive species. Topsoil excavated from the 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.

9. Prior to commencement of construction activities, the sub-grantee will determine if any bald eagle nests are in the vicinity of the construction zone. If an eagle 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 City must contact FEMA and consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) before work begins. Failure to do so may jeopardize federal funding.
10. If feasible, tree removal will only occur during from December 1 through March 1 in order to avoid impacts to the Northern Long-eared Bat during its reproduction and hibernacula swarming seasons.
11. To encourage the establishment of native plants, restore native tall grass prairie habitat, and provide pollinator habitat that promotes the conservation of the Monarch Butterfly, the project sponsor will consider within the project area dedicating approximately one acre of land along the riparian area adjacent to the WWTP site for Tall Grass Prairie Habitat. This area will be planted with a native Tall Grass Prairie and Pollinator seed mix.
12. A Construction Site Pollution Prevention Plan, outlining appropriate safety procedures, notification procedures, best management practices (BMP), and a remediation and disposal process will be developed in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommendations and implemented if hazardous materials are encountered during construction. This plan will be part of the project's contract documents and all potential contractors working on the site will be informed of the risks and responsibilities.
13. 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. The drilling equipment utilized at the site will have self-contained drilling fluid technology to ensure that groundwater resources are protected.
14. Construction will be limited to daytime hours to reduce noise impacts.
15. Work zone traffic controls will 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. The City will notify all public services agencies, particularly emergency service providers and public transportation providers, of the construction schedule regularly so that they are aware of and can plan appropriately for the potential impacts.
16. Fencing and/or other barricades will be installed during construction activities to address the safety of nearby residents.
17. Security measures will be implemented around the proposed WWTP equipment that may pose a safety hazard to the public and plant workers, such as tall fencing, handrails, fall protections around equalization basins, etc.
18. Security fencing will be installed around the abandoned WWTP to ensure that the site is not a health or safety risk to the public. Any loose equipment or debris that may become adrift during flooding will be removed from the site or otherwise secured.

FINDINGS

Based upon the conditions and information contained in the EA for the City of Plattsburgh Wastewater Treatment Facility 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

Kate Stojavljevic
Regional Environmental Officer

Date