

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for
CITY OF PLATTSMOUTH WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
PLATTSMOUTH, NE
FEMA-4420-DR-NE

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to provide Federal financial assistance for the relocation of the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) serving the City of Plattsmouth, Nebraska to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), as Recipient, and the City of Plattsmouth, as Subrecipient, to eliminate the environmental and public health risks caused by floodwaters which render the plant incapable of operating properly. Severe winter storms and high velocity winds caused widespread flooding throughout Cass County, Nebraska resulting in a Presidentially declared Major Disaster Declaration, FEMA-DR-4420-NE, dated March 21st, 2019 and continuing, as amended. This declaration makes federal disaster assistance available to affected communities and certain nonprofit organizations in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act; 42 U.S.C. 5172), as amended. This Public Notice will also be published on the [City of Plattsmouth website](#).

The existing WWTP serving the City of Plattsmouth was constructed in the floodplain of the Missouri River in 1972 with an earthen berm constructed around the entire facility for flood protection. Over the past 48 years, the flood levels at the site have significantly increased and the facility is at risk from future natural disasters and flooding. The most recent damages occurred from flood waters in March 2019 when the Missouri River overtopped the plant, rendering it in operable for several months, allowing untreated sewage to enter the river and its floodplain, and contaminating Plattsmouth's public water supply for Plattsmouth and possibly other water supplies downstream. Safe drinking water is a prerequisite for protecting health and all human activity; and properly treated wastewater is vital for preventing disease and protecting the environment. Disruption of wastewater treatment services can cause loss of life, economic impacts, and severe public health and environmental impacts.

The Proposed Action 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. The dismantling of the abandoned WWTP and wastewater discharge pipes are not included as part of this project or the environmental review and will be addressed under a separate action.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human environment. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated within the EA. The EA is available for public comment, and comments can be sent via email to kate.stojsavljevic@fema.dhs.gov. The EA will be available for download from FEMA's website at [Region 7 - Environmental Documents and Public Notices | FEMA.gov](#). Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic access to a physical copy of the EA available to the public will be limited to the Plattsmouth, City Hall, 136 N. 5th Street, Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048 by request; call 402-296-2522 to request an appointment.

The comment period will end 30 days after the date of this publication on the FEMA website listed above. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or e-mailed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. Contact: FEMA Region VII-DR 4420, Attn: Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, 11224 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131, or via email at kate.stojsavljevic@fema.dhs.gov.