

Leola, South Dakota  
McPherson County  
C462060-01

DATE August 15, 2018

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT WITHIN THE CITY OF LEOLA, SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) conducted a review of a proposal from the city of Leola for a project to replace existing water meters, to replace and install new watermain and to construct a booster pump house. All work will be performed within the city limits and street right-of-ways.

The project involves the replacement of all existing meters in town and implementation of technology allowing the meters to be read remotely. A new pump house building will also be constructed which will contain a new pumping system, recirculating pumps to prevent freezing and an emergency backup generator. Leola will also replace all 4-inch asbestos cement and ductile iron pipe and loop the system in many locations with approximately 12,000 feet of 6-inch PVC watermain. All pipe less than 2 inches in size, valves and hydrants will also be replaced throughout the city.

The city of Leola was awarded a \$1,891,000 Drinking Water SRF loan at 2.00 percent for 30 years. Repayment of the DWSRF loan will be with a water project surcharge. Leola was also awarded a \$1,615,000 Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program Grant to help cover the remaining project costs. Current water rates based on 5,000 gallons usage are \$46.00 per month and are expected to increase to \$50.55 as a result of this project.

Listed below are the reasons for granting a categorical exclusion:

1. The project is solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.
2. The project involves new drinking water distribution, sanitary sewer or storm sewer collection lines or storage facilities within the developed portion of the community.
3. No comments requiring mitigative action were received from the South Dakota Historical Society, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, United States Department of Interior, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resource Conservation Service, or through the public participation process

The proposed action does not involve any serious local objections nor does it meet any of the criteria for not granting a categorical exclusion as specified in [Section 6.505(c) (i) through (iii) of 40 CFR Part 6, Subpart E].

The planning area is located within the city of Leola city limits. The water distribution and storage improvements will not adversely affect any historical or archaeological resources. The improvements should have no adverse effects on plant life or wildlife. No other environmentally sensitive issues have been identified in the planning of this project.

The review process did not indicate that significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed projects. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an EIS has been made. This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the engineering report, environmental information documents, correspondence with responsible governmental agencies and other supporting data which are on file at the Division of Financial and Technical Assistance, Water and Waste Funding Program, DENR, Pierre, South Dakota, and are available for public scrutiny at the city of Leola office in Leola, South Dakota.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted for consideration by DENR after publication of the Categorical Exclusion Determination. After evaluating the comments received, DENR will make a final decision.



Michael A. Perkovich  
Administrator

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