



CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Clean Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below.

This information reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded wholly or in part 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, please provide them at this time. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME:	City of Ogallala Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements
APPLICANT:	City of Ogallala, Nebraska
COUNTY:	Keith
POPULATION:	4,878 (2020 Census)
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:	C318074
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT:	\$7,500,000
PROPOSED CWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS:	\$1,625,000
PROPOSED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT:	\$5,875,000

The City of Ogallala has a population of approximately 4,878, according to the 2020 Census. It is located near the center of Keith County in west-central Nebraska. The City of Ogallala has multiple improvements that are required for their wastewater treatment facility. These include corrosion repairs in the headworks building, replacement of the headworks screen, replacement of grit aeration piping, replacement and actuation of primary clarifier valves, repair of both trickling filter mechanisms, replacement of aeration basin fine-bubble diffusers, repair of sludge piping, installation of a new screw press and building, addition of two clarifier launder covers, and associated electrical/mechanical improvements.

The City of Ogallala has applied for funding for the above-referenced project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. This project is included on the CWSRF Project Priority Funding List in the State Fiscal Year 2026 Intended Use Plan. The City is eligible for a 20-year CWSRF loan at an interest rate of 0.75 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal balance will be assessed each year.

The projected annual CWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$396,475. For a typical residential sewer connection, the current rate is \$12.25 per month, with an added charge of \$3.00 per 1000 gallons of flow, resulting in an average monthly sewer bill of \$27.25 for a typical 5,000-gallon monthly household water use. Based upon the 2,670 active service connections, residential sewer rates may need to be raised by an additional \$12.37 per month, to address the new debt service. For the new CWSRF debt service, at least 80% of the impact from the loan forgiveness assistance will need to be targeted to reduce rates for the residential user rate class.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from a NEPA review specified in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference, and the Department has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared. Justification for categorical exclusion includes:

- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect state and federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric archeological or cultural value, including but not limited to, properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- Based on a review of the available mapping, the project lies within the 100-year floodplain. A floodplain development permit will be required for this project.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population, including altering the character of existing residential areas. Moreover, it is not known to be inconsistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans;
- Based on review there are no new/relocated surface or groundwater discharges; the project is not being developed to provide capacity to service a population greater than 30% of that existing for the community; and it is supported by a State growth strategy. In addition, there will not be a substantial increase in volume/loading of pollutants to receiving streams; and
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

The DWEE shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of exclusion, the state determines that the proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project; or new evidence reveals that serious local or environmental issues exist; or federal, state, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken on the basis of careful review of the application and other supporting data, which are on file in the office of the DWEE. These are available for public review upon request. Persons having a comment on this categorical exclusion determination are encouraged to submit such comments directly to the DWEE State Revolving Fund Program at dwee.srf@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 29th day of May, 2026.

Sincerely,



Sarah Starostka,
Administrator
Planning and Aid Division

Attachments: Distribution List
 Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
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Map

