

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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

In accordance with the Nebraska Drinking 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 (DWEE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME:	Village of Upland Emergency Well Replacement
APPLICANT:	Village of Upland, Nebraska
COUNTY:	Franklin
POPULATION:	125 (2020 Census)
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:	D311759
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT:	\$472,600
PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT:	\$472,600

The Village of Upland has a population of approximately 125, according to the 2020 Census. It is located in Franklin County in south-central Nebraska, approximately 17 miles south of Minden and 19 miles north of Franklin. The Village of Upland's public water system (PWS) consists of two wells (Well 81-1 and Well 2017-1), a distribution system, and a standpipe for water storage. Both wells have a capacity of approximately 250 gallons per minute (gpm). In December 2025, the Village's oldest well (Well 81-1) experienced a failure. An inspection of the well revealed the screen was over 50% plugged. The driller determined that the screen and casing are in poor condition and reconditioning of the well would likely result in well collapse. A shroud was installed to improve water flow around the motor in addition to a new pump and motor, allowing the well to be used as backup. Well 2017-1 is the primary supply well, and during summer months, the pumping water level for Well 2017-1 has neared the pump intake level, resulting in the need to use Well 81-1 to supplement the supply. In the event that Well 2017-1 fails, the reduced capacity of Well 81-1 jeopardizes the PWS's ability to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water on a continuous basis. Well 81-1 was constructed with 12-inch steel casing and screen which does not provide sufficient diameter to accommodate installation of a liner as a means of rehabilitation. As a result, rehabilitation of the existing well is not considered a practical long-term solution. Thus, the Village is proposing to drill a replacement well adjacent to Well 81-1, approximately 15 feet east of the existing well house. The existing well house and discharge piping are in good condition

and are expected to remain in service as part of the proposed improvements. Following construction completion for the replacement well, Well 81-1 will be decommissioned.

The Village of Upland has applied for funding for the above-referenced project through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. The Department is able to provide funding for this project in accordance with the State Fiscal Year 2027 Intended Use Plan because the failure of Well 81-1 is a documented emergency that jeopardizes the PWS's ability to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water on a continuous basis. The Village is eligible for a 30-year DWSRF loan at an interest rate of 0.85 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.85 percent of the outstanding principal balance will be assessed each year.

The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$24,055. For a typical residential water connection, the current rate is \$44.00 per month, with an added charge of \$2.75 per 1000 gallons of usage in excess of 2000 gallons, resulting in an average monthly water bill of \$52.25 for a typical 5,000-gallon monthly household water use. Based upon the 78 active service connections, residential water rates may need to be raised by an additional \$25.70 per month, to address the new debt service.

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, no portion of the project lies within the 100-year floodplain;
- 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; it is not primarily needed for future growth and is supported by a State growth strategy; 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 15th day of October, 2026.

Sincerely,



Sarah Starostka,
Administrator
Planning and Aid Division

Attachments: Distribution List
 Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
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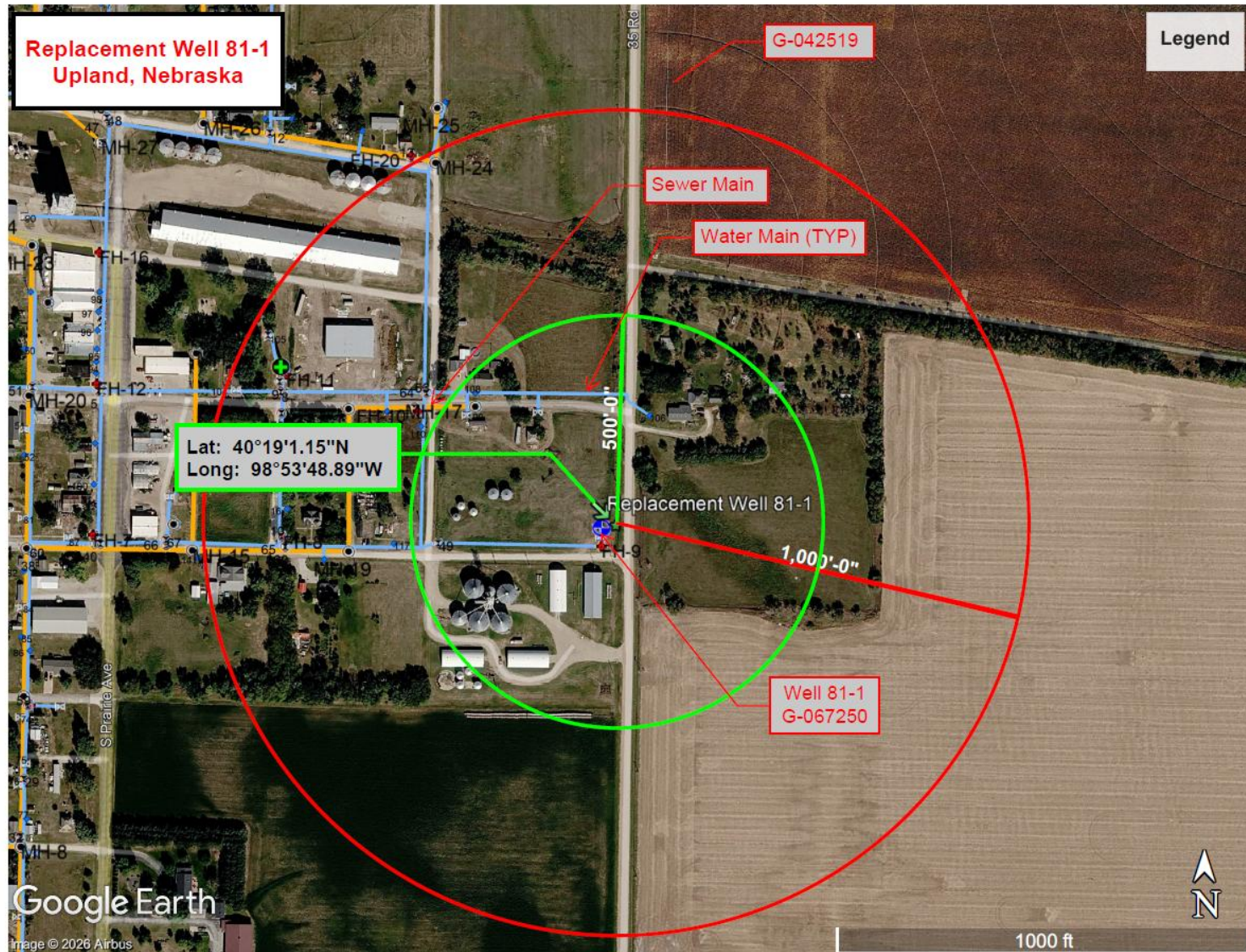
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Map



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(Map Provided by Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C. in Supplemental Preliminary Engineering Report, September 2026)