



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

LAKE COUNTY (CALUMET TOWNSHIP) WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION PACKAGE (CP) 1 SRF Project WW 22 46 45 01

Date: April 18, 2024

Pursuant to IC 5-1.2-3, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in Lake County's Calumet Township Preliminary Engineering Report will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted to:

April Douglas
Environmental Review Coordinator
SRF Programs
317-234-7294
adouglas@ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Wastewater Collection System Improvements,
Construction Package (CP) 1
Lake County (Calumet Township)
2293 N. Main Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

SRF Project Number: **WW 22 46 45 01**

Authorized Representative: Michael Repay, Commissioner

II. PROJECT LOCATION

Project summary with a brief synopsis of the project along with the location in Lake County, Calumet Township, Gary and Highland USGS Quadrangle, Township 36 N, Range 9W and Sections 25 and 36, Township 36 N, Range 8W and Sections 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33. See **Figure 1**.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The project area is currently serviced by failing septic systems. Most of these septic systems were installed in the 1950s and are now reaching the end of their useful life. The entire project area falls within a municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) area. Therefore, illicit discharges and stormwater pollution runoff into bodies of water, such as the Cady Marsh Ditch and the Little Calumet River are closely monitored. In order to improve the environmental health of the project area and relieve property owners of the failing septic systems, the proposed wastewater collection system improvement project, including septic tank elimination for Lake County Calumet Township, is proposed.

The project involves Construction Package (CP) 1 and a portion of CP-2.

The CP-1 project includes the construction of a regional lift station with an odor control system, approximately 11,250 linear feet of force main (a portion of which is part of CP-2), approximately 110 linear feet of steel casing constructed by jack and bore operation, approximately 4,100 linear feet of gravity interceptor, approximately 25,950 linear feet of conventional gravity sanitary sewer main, approximately 54,900 linear feet of small diameter pressure main, approximately 185 manholes, approximately 36 air release valves in pit, and miscellaneous project-related appurtenances.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$90,400,000. Lake County will finance a portion of the project with a loan from the Clean Water SRF Loan Program for a term and annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

The environmental impacts will be minimal. All project activities will take place in areas previously disturbed by the installation of the existing utilities and roads. The proposed project will not affect streams, floodplains, wetlands, wooded areas, or other sensitive environmental resources and will not convert prime farmland.

Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties. If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on October 11, 2022 at 10 am at the Commissioners' Courtroom located at 2293 N Main Street, 3rd Floor, Crown Point, IN 46307. There were no questions on this project during the hearing. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing for this project.

