



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

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

CITY OF BERNE
WATER MAIN AND LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENTS
SRF Project DW 25 23 01 00

Date: April 6, 2026

Pursuant to IC 5-1.2-3, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the City of Berne's Preliminary Engineering Report will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion (CE) 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. In the absence of significant comments, the attached CE shall serve as the final environmental document.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted to:

State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave., IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
publiccomments@ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Water Main and Lead Service Line Replacements
City of Berne
158 West Franklin Street
Berne, IN 46711

SRF Project Number: **DW 25 23 01 00**

Authorized Representative: Mayor Gregg Sprunger

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Adams County, Monroe and Wabash Township, Berne 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 26 North, Range 14 East and Sections 32-33; and Township 25 North, Range 14 East and Sections 4-5. See **Figures A-1 and A-4**.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The City of Berne has developed its service line inventory and has identified services as high priority for replacement based on lead and galvanized pipe materials. The proposed service line replacement project includes replacement of lead and galvanized service line materials within the City of Berne's water distribution system in an effort to reduce the risk of lead exposure.

The proposed project will consist of the replacement of 88 lead service lines throughout the service area. The project will also include water main improvement at Deborah Lane for 600 Linear Feet (LFT); Harrison Street for 700 LFT; Oakwood Lane and Old Colonial Drive for 320 LFT; Forest Park Drive for 450; Westlich Strasse and Old Colonial Drive for 650 LFT; and US 27 Water main replacements which includes 850 LFT of 6-inch water main on US 27 and approximately 500 LFT of 6-inch water main in each alley. The work will also replace hydrants, valves, connections and other miscellaneous appurtenances.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY, AND FUNDING

The total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$4,487,400. The City of Berne intends to finance the project with a loan from the Drinking 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

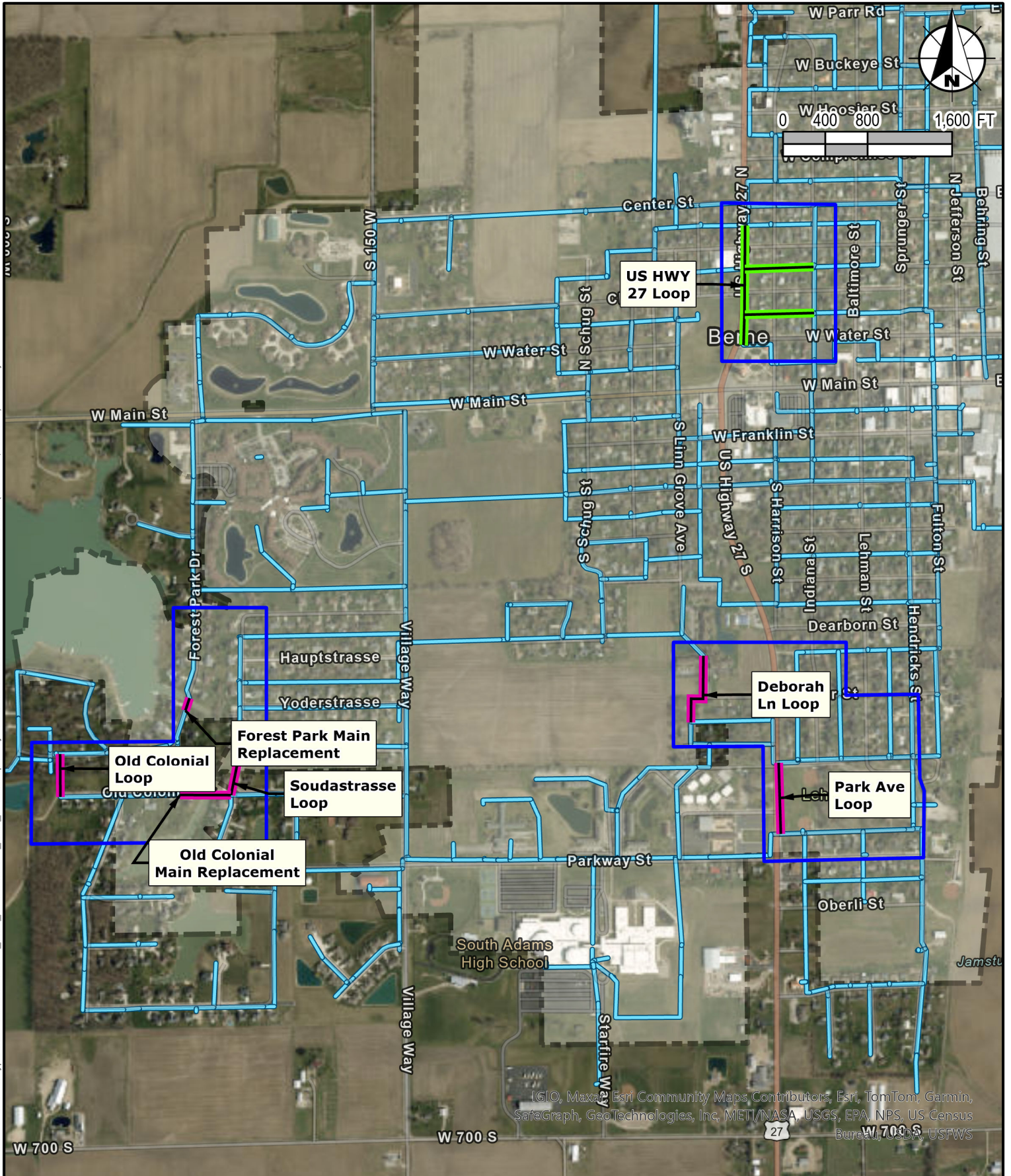
The environmental impacts will be minimal. All project activities will take place in areas previously disturbed by installation of existing utilities. The proposed project will not affect streams, floodplains, wetlands, wooded areas, or other sensitive environmental resources and will not convert prime 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 January 12, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Common Council Chambers at 158 W. Franklin Street, Berne, IN 46711. There were no questions about this project during the hearing. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing for this project.



- Legend**
- █ Water Main Projects
 - █ September Revisions
 - Water Main Project Areas
 - █ Water Mains
 - Corporate Limits

FIGURE A-4
WATER MAIN PROJECT OVERVIEW
 Page 1 of 4
 City of Berne, Indiana
 Berne Utilities
 Preliminary Engineering Report
 March 2025
 Revised September 2025
 Project No. 287025