



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

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September 27, 2011

Lake Norden, South Dakota – Water Treatment Improvements

**Categorical Exclusion for
Special Appropriation Act Grant**

For categories of projects that are so minor in scope that they may be determined by EPA not to need a full environmental review. EPA makes the determination if a project will qualify for a Categorical Exclusion based on information provided by the grantee

Project Description:

The City of Lake Norden, South Dakota proposes to install a third gravity filter and associated piping and control valves at the existing water treatment plant. The water treatment plant (WTP) is located in Lake Norden, south of State Highway 28 on Park Street. The project includes removal and reconstruction of a wall, construction a new concrete equipment pad, and the piping, electrical and control connections needed to operate with the existing two filter units. The new filter will provide an additional 350 gallons per minute of filtration capacity. The additional filter will reduce the WTP filter loading rate. The City recently added new wells which have higher iron and manganese concentrations thereby increasing the solid loadings. The City is currently looking for a new water source with reduced levels of iron and manganese. If a higher-quality water source is found, the City could use the third filter to increase the capacity of the water treatment plant. The potential user of the additional water would be the local cheese processing facility, Davisco, which is considering increasing production.

[Information from the South Dakota First District Association of Local Governments and Banner and Associates received; via e-mail in August and September 2011.]

Purpose and Need:

The project will increase the filtrating capacity of the existing water treatment plant to remove iron and manganese.

Cross-Cutters:

Cross-Cutters still apply to all Special Appropriations Act Project (SAAP) projects even if they are granted a categorical exclusion from the NEPA. The entire list of Cross-Cutters can be found in the SAAP Guidance memorandums. For additional information on potential Cross-Cutters see EPA's "Environmental Review Guide for Special Appropriations Grant," Appendix C @ <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/nepa/environmental-review-guide-grants-pg.pdf>.

Typical Cross-Cutters that might apply to a Special Appropriations Act Project		
Historic, Archaeological or Cultural Resources	Sole Source Aquifer—mainly Missoula in Region 8	
Air Conformity -- Is the Project in a Nonattainment Area?	Near a Wild and Scenic River?	
Any wetlands or waters of the U. S. crossings?	Within a Floodplain?	
Environmental Justice	On Prime Farmland?	
Threatened and Endangered Species	Special Wildlife Habitat, Wildlife corridor	

No Cross-Cutters issues are anticipated for this project since the construction will be at the existing water treatment plant. The following Cross-Cutters have been considered and determined not to be of concern in this project:

- Threatened and Endangered Species: The proposed project will not involve any federally listed threatened or endangered species or their habitats.
- Historic, Archaeological or Cultural Resources: No cultural resources were identified within the project area. There are no properties in the project area listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The South Dakota State Historical Society concurred with EPA's determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this project in a May 25, 2011 letter.
- Within a Floodplain: No floodplains or flood hazards were identified that are associated with the proposed project. Flood mapping for this area is currently unavailable. In lieu of the FEMA maps, topographic mapping was used to evaluate the elevation of the WTP in relationship to Dolph Creek and Lake Norden. The WTP is at a higher elevation and is located on the other side of State Highway 28, which appears to be one of the higher points near the WTP.
- Prime Farmland: The project will have no effect on prime or important farmland.
- Wetlands: No previously inventoried wetlands or plants or soils characteristic of wetlands were found within the project area.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CRITERIA (40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii))

1. NO known or expected potentially significant environmental impacts on public health or the environment either individually or cumulatively over time.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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2. Is the project for minor upgrade or minor expansion of system capacity? This includes, but is not limited to: minor extensions of sanitary sewers or force mains or drinking water extensions to primarily serve existing development; stormwater detention pond and retention pond cleaning and dredging or minor storage increase or culvert upgrades to serve existing development.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Is the project for rehabilitation of existing facilities? This includes, but is not limited to: functional replacement of existing systems and components, infiltration and inflow corrections in the existing wastewater collection system or equipment rehabilitation at the existing wastewater plant, pumping, or storage facilities; drinking water system equipment replacement or modifications at an existing water plant, or pumping and storage facilities; stormwater culvert and outlet rehabilitation and repair.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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4. Is the project for new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities? This includes, but is not limited to: new wastewater facilities and equipment for sludge handling, screening, flow equalization, disinfection, or laboratory facilities; new drinking water facilities such as alum sludge handling, filtration, flow equalization, chemical storage, chlorination, or laboratory facilities; facilities at existing stormwater control locations, such as sedimentation basins, infiltration trenches, detention pond to retention pond retrofits, or oil and grit separators.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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If the answer to 1 is yes and at least one of answers to 2 through 4 are yes; then proceed to the next section: Excluding Factors.
 Conversely, if the answer to 1 is no, or if all answers to 2 through 4 are no then the project does not qualify for a categorical exclusion.

Excluding Factors (40 CFR 6.204(b))

(1) Project will have disproportionate impacts on any community: EJ, minority, etc.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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(1) Project will involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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(2) Project will result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loadings of pollutant to the receiving water	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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(3) Project will provide capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. <i>In the future, the project could provide additional capacity, if a higher-quality source of water is found. The increased water capacity would be used by the cheese plant located in this very small town of less than 600 people. Little to no additional population growth is anticipated as a result of this project.</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(4) Project will be in conflict with state or other regional growth plan or strategy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(5) Project will directly or indirectly relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Categorical Exclusion Finding:

Upon review of the application materials and NEPA regulations pertaining to the granting of a categorical exclusion determination, the EPA Region 8 finds that the City of Lake Norden Water Treatment Plant Improvements Special Appropriation Act Project Grant has met the criteria to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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