



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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Grafton, North 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 Grafton, North Dakota proposes to upgrade and expand the City's drinking water treatment plant (WTP) by building a small addition to the existing WTP to house a new biological activated carbon filtration system with combined air/water backwash ability. The City also plans to connect the WTP to the sanitary sewer (approximately 450 feet of new sewer line), replacing an existing septic tank and drain field. In 2003, a categorical exclusion was prepared for the same Special Appropriation Act Grant for improvements for water softening, chemical feed, controls and telemetry systems. This categorical exclusion covers additional work items to fully utilize the grant.

[Information from Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. in several e-mails dated November 2013.]

Purpose and Need:

The new biological activated carbon (BAC) filters with combined air/water backwash ability are needed to improve treatment during taste and odor events due to surface run-off events; e.g., spring flooding or heavy rainfall. The new filters will improve backwash by adding an air scour system. The new filter addition will also include a chlorine contact basin located under the filters to reduce disinfection byproduct and help meet drinking water standards and regulations. The new sewer connection replaces an aging septic tank and drain field. The sanitary sewer did not serve the area around the WTP when the facility was built in the 1950's.

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.
- Within a Floodplain: The FEMA map of the Park River shows floodplain surrounding the water treatment plant on three sides, mainly to the south and east. The WTP and expansion of the building are not in the mapped floodplain. The sewer extension may cross under a small area of the 100 year flood plain.
- 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))

<p>1. NO known or expected potentially significant environmental impacts on public health or the environment either individually or cumulatively over time.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Excluding Factors (40 CFR 6.204(b))</p>	
<p>(1) Project will have disproportionate impacts on any community: EJ, minority, etc.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(1) Project will involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(2) Project will result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loadings of pollutant to the receiving water</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

(3) Project will provide capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. <i>The population of Grafton was 4,284 in 2010 with little change in population during the past decade, after several decades of decreased population.</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 Grafton 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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