

Menno, South Dakota  
Hutchinson County  
C462136-01

DATE November 23, 2011

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECTS AT MENNO, SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has conducted a review of a proposal from the city of Menno, South Dakota that involves the purchase and installation of new water meters.

The project involves the replacement of all existing water meters with the installation of new remote reading water meters for each residential and business water consumer. The city has applied for a \$157,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan (2.25 percent – 10 years). The city's water rates meet the state requirements for consideration to receive additional subsidy. The current water rate is \$35.00 per 5,000 gallons, and will have a project surcharge of \$3.50 in anticipation of the project.

Listed below are the reasons for granting a categorical exclusion:

1. The project is solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or toward the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.
2. The project does not affect the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facility.
3. No comments requiring mitigative action were received from any of the five review agencies or through the public participation process.

The proposed action does not involve any serious local objections nor does it meet any of the criteria for not granting a categorical exclusion as specified in [Section 6.505 (c) (i) through (iii) of 40 CFR Part 6, Subpart E].

The planning area is located in the city of Menno. The water meter replacement project will not affect any historical or archaeological resources. The new improvements should have no adverse effects on plant life or wildlife. No other environmentally sensitive issues have been identified in the planning of this project. Minor noise, air pollution and soil erosion problems will occur during construction, but these will be only temporary in nature.

The review process did not indicate that significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed projects. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an EIS has been made. This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the engineering report, environmental

information documents, correspondence with the responsible governmental agencies and other supporting data which are on file at the Division of Financial and Technical Assistance, Water Resources Assistance Program, DENR, Pierre, South Dakota, and are available for public scrutiny at the Menno city office in Menno, South Dakota.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted for consideration by DENR after publication of the Categorical Exclusion Determination. After evaluation the comments received, DENR will make a final decision.

James Feeney  
Administrator

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