



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

Project Summary and Notice of Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Date: DEC 16 2022

Loan Applicant: Wheaton Sanitary District (WSD)

IEPA Loan Project Number: L174722 and L174723

To all interested persons:

Section 365.330 of the Illinois Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP) requires that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) publish a Notice of Categorical Exclusion for proposed wastewater projects which are of such limited scope and have little or no potential for causing negative environmental impacts. Prior to granting its approval of the project plan, the Agency requires that the public be granted an opportunity to comment as to whether in fact the project should be precluded from the formal environmental review process and public hearing.

The IEPA has reviewed the above cited project plan and concurs with the applicant's finding that the proposed project is technically appropriate and cost effective. Unless new information provided through the public comment process causes reconsideration, the Agency will approve this planning at the close of the public comment period.

The applicant is required to public notice that the Agency has issued the attached Notice of Intent to Issue a Categorical Exclusion. This document, along with the project planning, must be made available for public inspection, allowing 10 days for public comment. During this comment period, written comments may be provided to the applicant or directly to the IEPA contact person identified in the attached document.

For information purposes only, a copy of this document is being provided to your local newspaper of record.

Your interest and participation in this process are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Heidi Allen
Pre-Construction Unit Manager
Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section
Bureau of Water

Trotter and Associates, Inc
Received

DEC 27 2022

St. Charles, Illinois

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Attachment

Notice of Intent to Issue a Categorical Exclusion

In accordance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Loan Rules, Title 35, Subtitle F, Chapter II, Part 365.330 (State Environmental Review), the IEPA has determined that the proposed project, described below, may be excluded from a detailed environmental impacts review. The Agency may categorically exclude certain types of projects from environmental review if no potential for negative environmental impacts exists. This project qualifies for an exclusion because all construction will be confined to the existing WWTF site, which has been previously disturbed for the original construction of the facility. In addition, environmental sign-offs have been received from all applicable agencies.

This report is based on information submitted to the IEPA by the Wheaton Sanitary District (WSD). Sources of information include the Wheaton Sanitary District Supplemental Memorandum to the 2017 Wastewater Facility Plan prepared by Trotter and Associates, Inc., dated July 2021. Additional documentation was obtained from loan application documents and compiled by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Part I – Project Information

Project Names: Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation; Sludge Dewatering Improvements

Loan Applicant: Wheaton Sanitary District (WSD)

Counties: DuPage

Project Numbers: L174722 and 4723

Current Population: 71,263

Future Population (20 year): 84,594

Design Average Flow: 8.90 MGD

Design Maximum Flow: 19.10 MGD

Project Description: Using funds from loan L174722, the WSD plans to rehabilitate the four round secondary clarifiers they operate within the existing basins. The project will include installation of new mixed liquor piping; a new splitter structure; replacement of all clarifier mechanisms and components; and modifications to the sludge conveyance system.

Using funds from loan L174723, the WSD plans to construct a new Sludge Dewatering Building within the boundary of the current Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF). The building will house centrifuge feed pumps; centrifuges; liquid polymer blending units; and chemical addition capabilities for phosphorus removal from the recycle stream. In addition, a centrate holding tank; digested sludge storage tank; and biological reactor will also occupy the building. The Dewatering Building is anticipated to be an approximately 60 ft x 50 ft two-story structure. The Centrate holding tank will be 25 ft x 20 ft; the digested sludge storage tank will be 25 ft x 40 ft; the 50,000-gallon Equalization Tank will be 25 ft x 20 ft; and the Biological Reactor will be 30 ft x 30 ft. The existing gravity thickener will also be rehabilitated as part of this project.

Project Location: See attached map for project location.

Project Justification: The new Sludge Dewatering Building is being built to replace outdated equipment that is at the end of its serviceable life. The District operates four round secondary clarifiers; three clarifiers were built in 1977 and a fourth one was built in 1993. The District has reported continual issues with effluent solids from the secondary clarifiers during sustained high flows. The proposed improvements to the clarifiers will eliminate these operational issues and potential violations of the WSD National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. IL0031739.

Estimated Construction Start Date: L174722-Winter 2023; L174723-Winter 2024

Estimated Construction Completion Date: L174722-Winter 2024; L174723-Summer 2025

Project Cost Estimate: L174722-\$5,578,903.00; L174723-\$10,711,250.00; Combined Total -\$16,290,153.00

Part II – Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers

Annual repayments on a Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP) loan in the amount of \$16,290,153.00 at the current loan program interest rate of 1.11% for a term of twenty (20) years are \$912,754.25.

Source of Loan Repayment: User Fees.

Current Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$41.97 per month.

Projected Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$41.97 per month.

Average Monthly Residential Water Use: 5,000 gallons

Number of Customers or Service Connections: 63,000

How is the monthly residential rate/cost of service calculated? WSD billings are based on metered water use. Customers are charged per 1,000 gallons of water used. The average residential customer uses 5,000 gallons per billing period. Customers are billed monthly. The current residential user rate structure is a treatment and conveyance fee of \$5.46 per 1,000 gallons of water used, with a minimum charge of \$10.92 per month. Residential customers are charged a fixed base charge of \$11.82 per month. Customers are also charged a collector sewer maintenance charge of \$0.57 per 1,000 gallons, with a minimum charge of \$1.14 per month. For the average residential customer, the monthly sewer bill is \$41.97 calculated as follows: $(5.0 \text{ units} * \$5.46/\text{unit}) + \$11.82 + (5.0 \text{ units} * \$0.57/\text{unit}) = \$41.97/\text{month}$

Annual Residential Water and Sewer Bill Rates	
Cost Allocation	Rate (Per Month)
Treatment and Conveyance Rate	\$27.30
Base Charge (Flat Rate)	\$11.82
Collector Sewer Maintenance Charge	\$ 2.85
Total Average Cost of Sewer Bill	\$41.97

The project can be supported without adjustment of the existing user rate structure.

Median Household Income (MHI): \$103,470.00.

Financial evaluation of the proposed project: To evaluate the costs of the proposed project for the community, a percentage comparison of the MHI to the average, annual cost for waste water service is utilized. The above information only applies to wastewater collection and treatment. The MHI listed above is from the current fiscal year's census information. The proposed annual cost for waste water treatment of \$503.64 is 0.49% of the MHI for the area. The percentage is for comparison only and has no impact on whether a project qualifies for funding from the IEPA. The percentage comparison and MHI are two of several criteria used to determine whether a loan project qualifies for interest rate reductions or principal forgiveness.

The WPCLP interest rate adjusts annually on July 1st. All loans are subject to the interest rate in effect at the time a loan agreement is issued. The loan program rules include provisions for incentives such as reduced interest

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The WPCLP interest rate adjusts annually on July 1st. All loans are subject to the interest rate in effect at the time a loan agreement is issued. The loan program rules include provisions for incentives such as reduced interest

rates, partial principal forgiveness, and extended repayment periods for qualifying applicants. The criteria used to determine incentive qualification are found in Sections 365.210 and 365.250 of the Procedures for Issuing Loans from the WPCLP which is available on the Agency's website. The final decision for incentive qualification will be determined at the time a loan agreement is issued using updated Census Bureau and Department of Labor data. Using current data, the WSD is not eligible to receive any incentives.

Public comments are invited on the proposed project. For further information contact:

George Lambert, Project Manager
Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water

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(217)782-2027

**Wheaton Sanitary District
Capital Improvements Projects
Treatment Plant
Project Locations**



Preliminary Treatment Building Improvements

Sludge Digestion Rehabilitation

Operations Center Floodplain Improvements

Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation

Backup Power Supply Systems

Phosphorus Removal Upgrades

UV Disinfection Upgrade

Sludge Dewatering Improvements

Spring Brook

