

Why You Should Read This: The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a State Revolving Fund project. As part of the environmental review, you are entitled to provide comments. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.



IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

July 22, 2025

To: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups

An environmental review has been performed based on the procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed agency action below:

Applicant: City of New Albin

County: Allamakee

State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-03-24-DWSRF-042

Iowa DNR Project Number: W2024-0117

Other Funding Sources: CDBG

The City of New Albin, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their water supply system. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. The State Revolving Loan Program is a program authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

The City of New Albin is located in Allamakee County, Iowa approximately 98 miles northwest of Dubuque, Iowa and 92 miles southeast of Rochester, Minnesota. The population of New Albin according to the 2020 US Census was 498. The design population equivalent for the year 2045 is 500.

Currently, the city's water supply is provided from one well, Well #1. This well was drilled in 1925. It has 145 feet of 10-inch diameter steel casing and a total depth of 586 feet. In 1991, the well was relined with a new casing to extend service life. The City has reported that the newer casing is not in the best condition. The well yields 100 gallons per minute (gpm). Well #1 is an artesian well, which means water flows under natural conditions without pumping. When the well pump is not running a small flow of water discharges from the well head to the building floor and out through a drain hole in the wall. Approximately 5 years ago, the City replaced some of the piping in the well house and replaced the drop pipe in the well. Because New Albin only has one well, the water system does not meet drinking standards, which require a minimum of two sources of water. The City uses liquid chlorine for disinfection and adds a polyphosphate/orthophosphate mix to sequester iron and prevent corrosion.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the drinking water supply system to enhance their reliability, increase capacity, and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of New Albin's water supply for the next 20 years.

The project includes the construction of a new well, new well house, and water main. The well house is expected to be approximately 18 ft by 32 ft and disturb to a depth of about 6 ft. The water main is expected to be installed via open trench excavation and will disturb about 280ft long and 7ft deep, and about 15ft wide. Construction for the well and well house will disturb an area about 100ft and 60ft. In addition, the installation of a generator inside the new well house, and all associated connections and apertures are proposed. In addition, the well head of Well #1 is planned to be rehabilitated (sealing the well) to prevent contamination.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will not impact wetlands. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

This project will not be receiving federal funds through SRF. As such, this project is not considered a federal undertaking as defined in §300320 under the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq. for the purpose of the SRF environmental review. The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government, and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. If this SRF project receives federal funds from other sources, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all federal requirements are met for that funding. However, if construction activities uncover any archaeological item(s), the City should notify SRF staff. If human remains are discovered then state law also applies IC 263B.

The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.

Minimum separation distances will be maintained. Noise during construction will be maintained at tolerable levels through controls on construction activities. Any construction debris will be removed from the site for proper disposal. Adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized with proper construction practices, inspection, prompt clean up and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored.

It has been determined that the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the surrounding environment. This determination is based on a careful review of the engineering report, the environmental assessment and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Natural Resources' office in Des Moines, Iowa. These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is

attached. This Department will not take any administrative action on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to the department during this period. Your comments can be sent to SRF-PC@dnr.iowa.gov or directly to me at Nicole.Osborn@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 321-7601.

Sincerely,

Nicole Osborn
Environmental Specialist
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Fehr Graham Engineering
Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Mindy Wells, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Chad Sands, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Alicia Vasto, Iowa Environmental Council
Michael Schmidt, Iowa Environmental Council
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority
Lee Wagner, Iowa Finance Authority
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities
Jane Clark, Sierra Club
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development
Tokey Boswell, USDOL, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Ann D'Alfonso, USEPA Region VII
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII
The Standard

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of New Albin
County: Allamakee
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-03-24-DWSRF-042
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2024-0117

Other Funding Sources: CDBG

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of New Albin is located in Allamakee County, Iowa approximately 98 miles northwest of Dubuque, Iowa and 92 miles southeast of Rochester, Minnesota.

Population: The population of New Albin according to the 2020 US Census was 498. The design population equivalent for the year 2045 is 500.

Current Source of Water: Currently, the city's water supply is provided from one well, Well #1. This well was drilled in 1925. It has 145 feet of 10-inch diameter steel casing and a total depth of 586 feet. In 1991, the well was relined with a new casing to extend service life. The City has reported that the newer casing is not in the best condition. The well yields 100 gallons per minute (gpm). Well #1 is an artesian well, which means water flows under natural conditions without pumping. When the well pump is not running a small flow of water discharges from the well head to the building floor and out through a drain hole in the wall. Approximately 5 years ago, the City replaced some of the piping in the well house and replaced the drop pipe in the well. Because New Albin only has one well, the water system does not meet drinking standards, which require a minimum of two sources of water.

Current Water Treatment and Quality: The City uses liquid chlorine for disinfection and adds a polyphosphate/orthophosphate mix to sequester iron and prevent corrosion.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the drinking water supply system to enhance their reliability, increase capacity, and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of New Albin's water supply for the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The project includes the construction of a new well, new well house, and water main. The well house is expected to be approximately 18 ft by 32 ft and disturb to a depth of about 6 ft. The water main is expected to be installed via open trench excavation and will disturb about 280ft long and 7ft deep, and about 15ft wide. Construction for the well and well house will disturb an area about 100ft and 60ft. In addition, the installation of a generator inside the new well house, and all associated connections and apertures are proposed. In addition, the well head of Well #1 is planned to be rehabilitated (sealing the well) to prevent contamination.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: Several alternatives were considered when planning the City's improvements to the water supply system.

Alternative 1 – New Well and Well House: In this alternative, a new well and wellhouse would be constructed to provide a second water source for the City of New Albin. One potential location would be in the southeast part of the City near the City Park. This area is already City owned property

Alternative 2 – Regionalization: Alternative 2 considered if the City of New Albin could regionalize their water system by purchasing water from a neighboring city. The closest cities include Lansing, Iowa (population of 954) at 10 miles away or Eitzen, Minnesota (population 243) at 9 miles away. Due to the larger population, Lansing is more likely to be able to provide adequate water to New Albin, though this would have to be confirmed with the City of Lansing if regionalization is determined to be a feasible option. A booster pump station and water main would need to be installed to transport water to New Albin. The water main would likely be installed along Highway 26 from Lansing to New Albin.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: Alternative 1 was selected due to the cost benefit compared Alternative 2, land available within the City of New Albin, and the non-monetary advantage of the City of New Albin maintaining control of the source water production by owning their own wells.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on July 14, 2025 at 6:45PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was made available by publication in The Standard on June 11, 2025 and posted in three public locations on June 11, 2025. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No written or oral comments were received.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups: The following Federal, state and local agencies were asked to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historical Preservation Office)
Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section
Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe
Flandreau Santee Sioux
Ho-Chunk Nation
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
Omaha Tribal Council
Osage Tribal Council
Otoe-Missouria Tribe
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Prairie Island Indian Community
Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Santee Sioux Nation
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Spirit Lake Tribal Council
Three Affiliated Tribes Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations
Upper Sioux Tribe
Winnebago Tribal Council
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee
Allamakee County Historic Preservation Commission

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public. Conditions placed on the applicant by the above agencies in order to assure no significant impact are included in the Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact section.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Construction: Traffic patterns within the community may be disrupted and above normal noise levels in the vicinity of the construction equipment can be anticipated during construction and should be a temporary problem. Adverse environmental impacts on noise quality will be handled by limited hours of contractor work time during the day. Other adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized by proper construction practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas

temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the construction project will be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents.

Care will be taken to maintain dirt to avoid erosion and runoff.

Temporary air quality degradation may occur due to dust and fumes from construction equipment. The applicant shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 23.3(2)“c”).

Historical/Archaeological: This project will not be receiving federal funds through SRF. As such, this project is not considered a federal undertaking as defined in §300320 under the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq. for the purpose of the SRF environmental review. The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government, and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. The findings of an archaeological survey conducted on the project property was provided to the State Historical Preservation and the City. If this SRF project receives federal funds from other sources, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all federal requirements are met for that funding. The SHPO R&C tracking number for this project is 250403700. However, if construction activities uncover any archaeological item(s), the City should notify SRF staff. If human remains are discovered then state law also applies IC 263B.

Environmental: According to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division, the proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas or open spaces. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concurs that the project will not impact wetlands. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 Technical Assistance website consultation determined, and Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree, that the project will not impact protected species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. However, if any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. According to the Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain.

No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity.

Land Use and Trends: The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. The proposed project is within the present corporate limits of New Albin in areas zoned residential, commercial, or industrial. No significant farmlands will be impacted. This project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water/sewer infrastructure is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region. Similarly, this project is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the pattern and type of land use.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources: Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy will be utilized during construction.

Nondiscrimination: All programs, projects, and activities undertaken by DNR in the SRF programs are subject to federal anti-discrimination laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Positive environmental effects will be maintained water quality for the citizens of New Albin. A catastrophic loss of water supply could result in City-wide health impacts due to a lack of sanitation and the use of other water sources that may not meet Federal drinking water standards.

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The project will not impact wetlands.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.
- The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
- The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- This project will not be receiving federal funds through SRF. As such, this project is not considered a federal undertaking as defined in §300320 under the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq. for the purpose of the SRF environmental review. The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government, and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. If this SRF project receives federal funds from other sources, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all federal requirements are met for that funding.
- However, if construction activities uncover any archaeological item(s), the City should notify SRF staff. If human remains are discovered then state law also applies IC 263B.
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.

THEREFORE:

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 44.10(3) *drinking water relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This Environmental Assessment Document (EAD) outlines the justification that the environmental review for the proposed project should be classified as

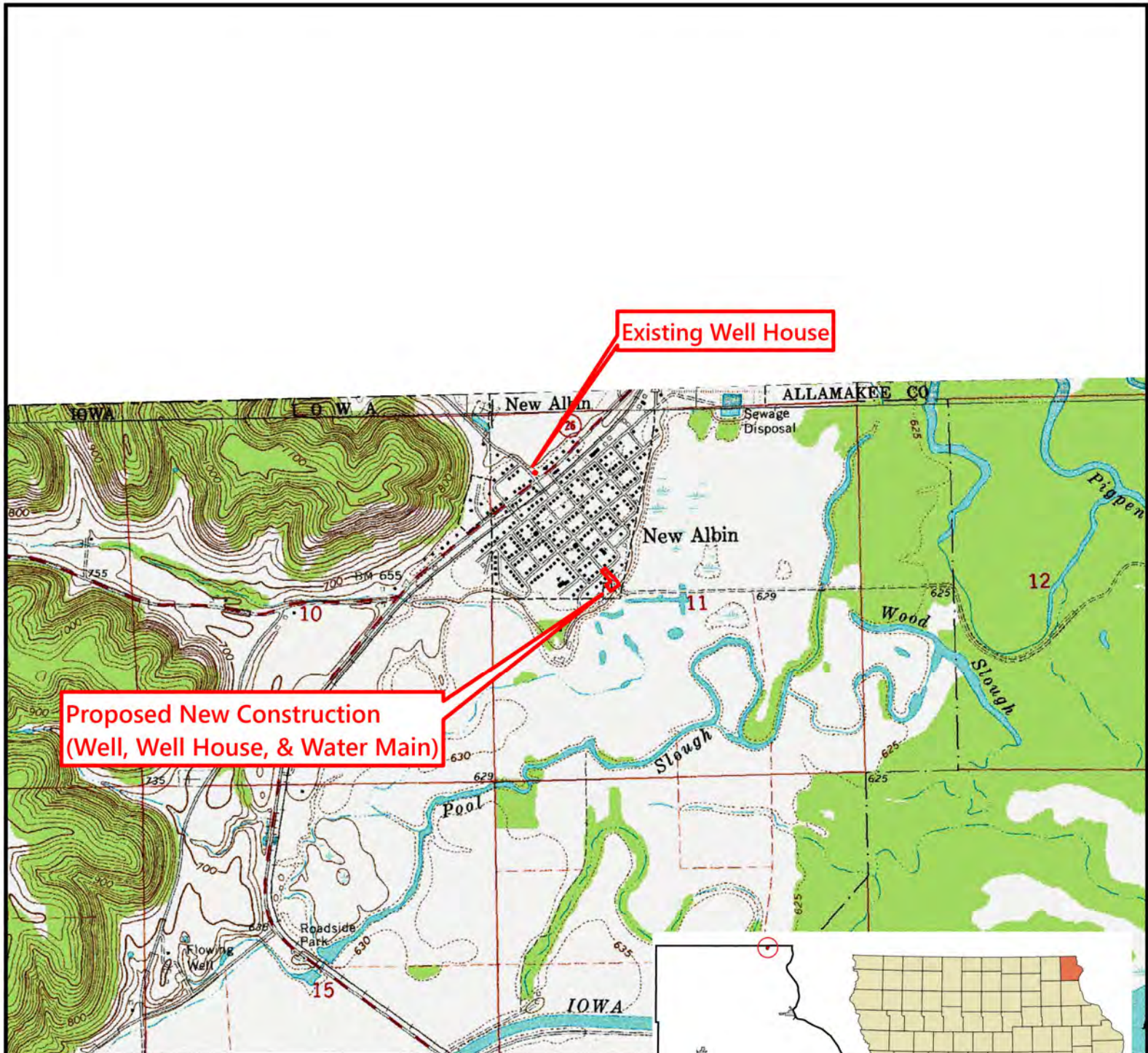
a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) and does not rise to the significance of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with 40 CFR § 1501.5.

Nicole Osborn


Environmental Review Specialist

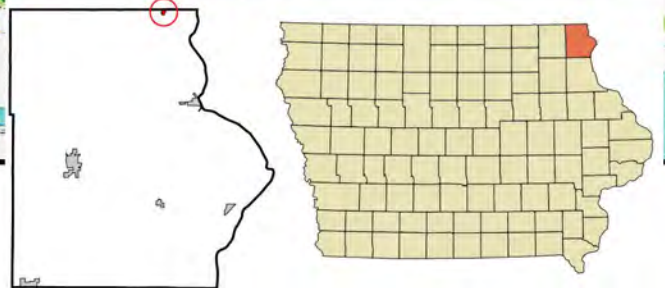
State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



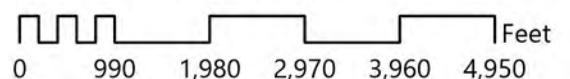
Legend

 Project Areas



Allamakee County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2025.


Scale:1:24,000



New Albin Wells Improvement Project
New Albin, IA (Allamakee County, Iowa)



Legend

 Project Areas

Scale: 1:4,000

New Albin Wells Improvement Project
New Albin, IA (Allamakee County, Iowa)

