

**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**

January 16, 2026

**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 Hinton

**County:** Plymouth

**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** FS-75-23-DWSRF-034

**Iowa DNR Project Number:** W2022-0722

The City of Hinton, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their drinking water infrastructure. 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. This project will not be receiving federal funds through SRF.

The City of Hinton is located in Plymouth County, Iowa approximately 210 miles northwest of Des Moines, Iowa and 82 miles southeast of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The population of Hinton according to the 2020 US Census was 935. The design population equivalent for the design year 2040 is 1,168.

The City of Hinton's raw water supply currently comes from two deep wells. Well #6 is located in the northern side of town near the existing ground storage tank. Well #4 is in the southern part of town in a neighborhood. Relying on the two deep wells have caused concern with meeting firm capacity in the future with the expected growth of the City. Currently, operating one well at a time can produce enough water for Maximum Day demand. The City does not currently have a water treatment plant. Both wells utilize chlorine and polyphosphate before pumping into the system.

The City utilizes a 200,000-gallon concrete ground storage tank adjacent to Well #6. The ground storage tank was constructed in 1993. There are some deficiencies related to venting, access, and bypass piping. Without bypass piping, regular maintenance is difficult because the ground storage tank cannot be taken out of service. These issues should be remedied in the future. Overall, the ground storage tank is in good shape and fit for future use after needed improvements.

A 12-inch water main leaves the existing ground storage tank located in the northern side of town, sized to meet future demands and is in usable condition with no concerns from the City at this time. Well #4 is located in the south part of town and pumps water directly into the water system. Well #4 will be decommissioned

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the drinking water system to enhance their reliability, increase capacity, and to safely & reliably provide drinking water for the residents of the City of Hinton for the next 20 years.

The proposed project includes the construction of a new water treatment plant (WTP), it's associated parking area, storm sewer collection, & conveyance system through the water plant site. Also proposed is a new ground storage reservoir, new electrical power extension to the plant, installation of a new gravity sanitary sewer & associated manholes & apertures to connect to the existing system. As well as the construction of an access road to the WTP and all necessary excavation & engineered fill required to grade the site. A new Dakota Well #7 is also proposed to be constructed, along with the necessary raw water main installation to the new WTP. The construction of a raw water main is proposed from the existing Well #6 to the new WTP and the installation of new finished water main from the WTP to the existing water tower & distribution system. The installation of the water mains across County Road 60 are anticipated to be bored. The proposed project will abandon and/or demolish the existing Well #4, well house, and it's associated 12-inch & 8-inch water mains.

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. Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act may apply and other wildlife conservation laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

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 impact floodplains. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value. Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project.

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. 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. If project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

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. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

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](mailto:SRF-PC@dnr.iowa.gov) or directly to me at [Nicole.Osborn@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto: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 Document  
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): McClure Engineering  
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  
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority  
Lee Wagner, Iowa Finance Authority  
Yolanda Attaway, 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  
The N'West Iowa REVIEW

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**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**Applicant:** City of Hinton  
**County:** Plymouth  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** FS-75-23-DWSRF-034  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** W2022-0722

**COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**Location:** The City of Hinton is located in Plymouth County, Iowa approximately 210 miles northwest of Des Moines, Iowa and 82 miles southeast of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**Population:** The population of Hinton according to the 2020 US Census was 935. The design population equivalent for the design year 2040 is 1,168.

**Current Source of Water:** The City of Hinton's raw water supply currently comes from two deep wells. Well #6 is located in the northern side of town near the existing ground storage tank. Well #4 is in the southern part of town in a neighborhood. Relying on the two deep wells have caused concern with meeting firm capacity in the future with the expected growth of the City. Currently, operating one well at a time can produce enough water for Maximum Day demand.

**Current Water Treatment and Quality:** The City does not currently have a water treatment plant. Both wells utilize chlorine and polyphosphate before pumping into the system.

**Current Distribution System:** The City utilizes a 200,000-gallon concrete ground storage tank adjacent to Well #6. The ground storage tank was constructed in 1993. There are some deficiencies related to venting, access, and bypass piping. Without bypass piping, regular maintenance is difficult because the ground storage tank cannot be taken out of service. These issues should be remedied in the future. Overall, the ground storage tank is in good shape and fit for future use after needed improvements.

A 12-inch water main leaves the existing ground storage tank located in the northern side of town, sized to meet future demands and is in usable condition with no concerns from the City at this time. Well #4 is located in the south part of town and pumps water directly into the water system. Well #4 will be decommissioned

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the drinking water system to enhance their reliability, increase capacity, and to safely & reliably provide drinking water for the residents of the City of Hinton for the next 20 years.

**Proposed Improvements:** The proposed project includes the construction of a new water treatment plant (WTP), it's associated parking area, storm sewer collection, & conveyance system through the water plant site. Also proposed is a new ground storage reservoir, new electrical power extension to the plant, installation of a new gravity sanitary sewer & associated manholes & apertures to connect to the existing system. As well as the construction of an access road to the WTP and all necessary excavation & engineered fill required to grade the site. A new Dakota Well #7 is also proposed to be constructed, along with the necessary raw water main installation to the new WTP. The construction of a raw water main is proposed from the existing Well #6 to the new WTP and the installation of new finished water main from the WTP to the existing water tower & distribution system. The installation of the water mains across County Road 60 are anticipated to be bored. The proposed project will abandon and/or demolish the existing Well #4, well house, and it's associated 12-inch & 8-inch water mains.

## ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

**Alternatives Considered:** When looking at water supply alternatives to address design year water demand, the primary drivers for development of a new raw water supply for the City is the age of the existing Well #4. The City sits above four primary aquifer systems that could potentially be drawn from to develop a new raw water supply well. From shallowest to deepest, potential sources are the Alluvial aquifer, the Dakota aquifer (currently utilized for the City's deep wells), and the Silurian–Devonian aquifer.

The most feasible aquifer for additional capacity is the Dakota aquifer. This aquifer was determined feasible based on the cost of developing this source compared to other available sources. Other aquifers in the area are deeper, which increase cost to the City, and do not provide better quality raw water.

Rural water providers are also an option to provide water to small communities and standalone residences. Southern Sioux County Rural Water is the closest rural water provider to the City. To provide the capacity needed for the City, Southern Sioux County Rural Water would need to construct a new water treatment plant of their own along with additional water main to connect to the City. Currently, Southern Sioux County Rural water has a 6- inch water line that ends approximately one mile west of Hinton. One mile of water main would also need to be constructed. They have a standard bulk user rate of \$2.42/1000 gallons. It would be the responsibility of the City to construct a pipeline to connect to the existing 6-inch water line to the City. Hinton would also be responsible to pay some of the debt service, or a percentage of the construction cost of a new water facility owned by Southern Sioux County Rural Water. The water supplied to the City by Southern Sioux County Rural Water is a higher quality than currently produced by the City, but similar in quality if the City would construct and operate its own water treatment plant.

An evaluation was done to determine the infrastructure necessary to meet the likely water demands for the City in the year 2040. Well House #4 treats raw water and sends treated water directly to the distribution system. Well #6 treats water and sends treated water to the clear well. To meet future demand projections, some kind of additional treatment capacity is required. The most probable path for the City to take is to improve treated water quality through constructing a Water Treatment Plant. Depending upon specific technologies selected, this may be carried out by constructing a new facility adjacent to the current water

treatment plant or include a detached facility expansion. Regardless of option chosen, treatment of groundwater sources requires three basic steps: 1) Iron and Manganese Removal, 2) Disinfection, and optionally 3) Softening.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The most feasible option for additional source of water for Hinton is the construction of a new well. To solve the City's finished water quality, raw water supply concerns, and to meet IDNR regulations, it is recommended that the City construct a new Pressure Filter treatment facility. Pressure filtration is the most cost-effective treatment option through the design year of 2040 and offers the benefit of a new facility, capable to meet present regulations.

## **MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT**

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on January 8, 2026 at 5:30PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was made available by placement on the City website, posted to the City social media accounts, and posted in public locations on December 5, 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 may be provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

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 Tribe of Nebraska  
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 Tribe

No adverse comments have been received from any agencies or general public to date. 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. The proposed project will disturb one or more acres of soil; therefore, the applicant is required to obtain an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) and abide by its terms. Provided that this permit is obtained and the terms of which are abided by, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

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:** Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. 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. 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 project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project area, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

**Environmental:** The project area was screened for the presence of wetlands, floodplains, and sovereign lands. 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. Impacts to wetlands are not anticipated. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa.

Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation is not required for this non-federal SRF project. Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act may apply and other wildlife conservation laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940. 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. Impacts to flood plains are not anticipated. 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 Hinton 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 improved water quality. The new well will help maintain water quality for the citizens of Hinton. 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. The new water treatment plant will increase treatment of the raw water and improve water quality for the City.

## **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. Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act may apply and other wildlife conservation laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
- 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 impact floodplains.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project.
- 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. 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.

- If project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).
- 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.
- No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

**THEREFORE:**

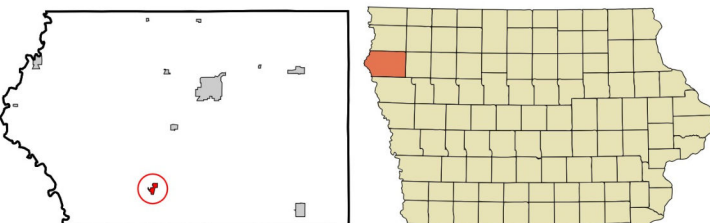
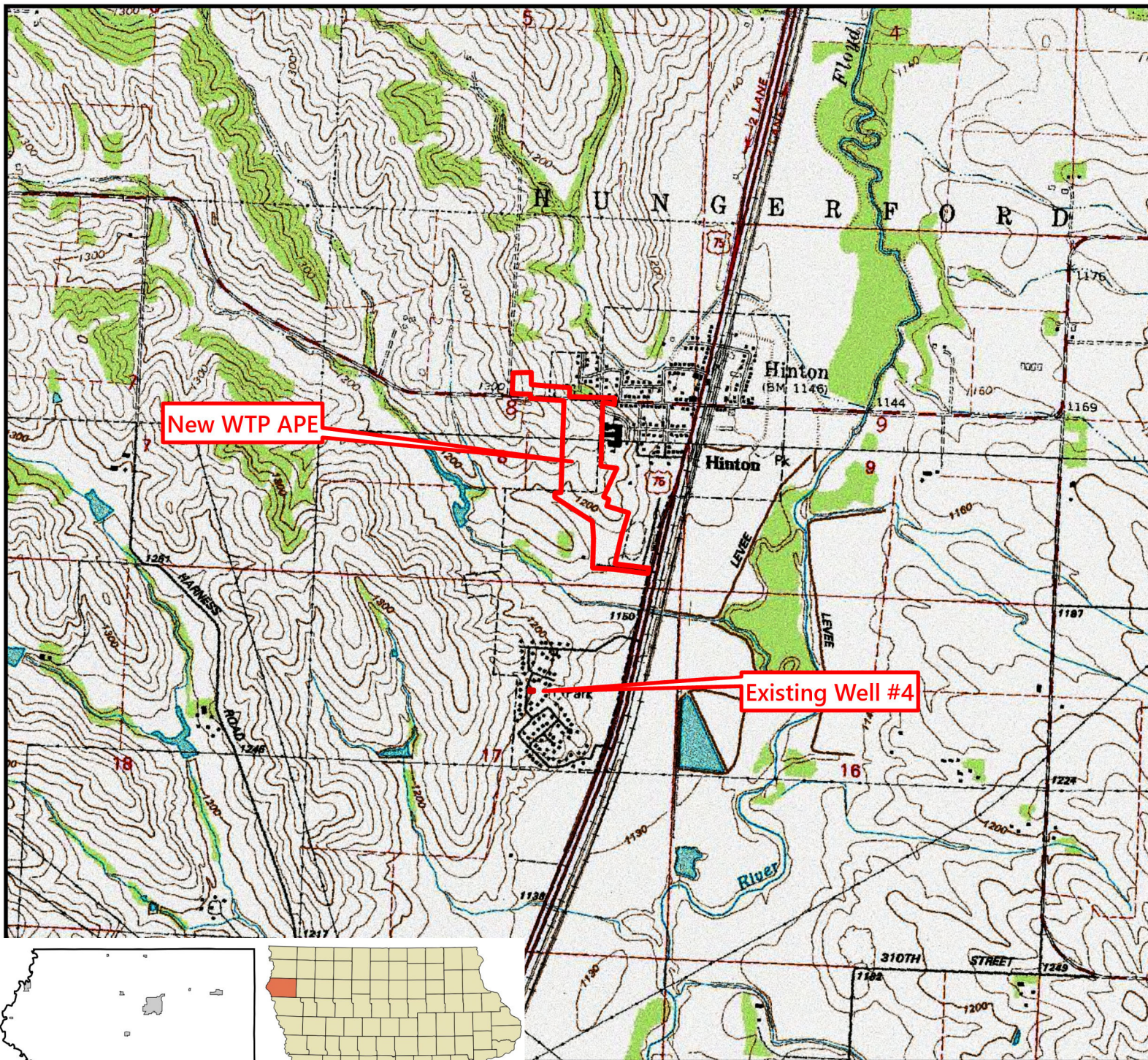
The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 44.10(3) \*drinking water relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This Environmental Assessment Document (EAD) outlines the justification that the environmental review for the proposed project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

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**Nicole Osborn**

Environmental Review Specialist  
State Revolving Fund  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources





Plymouth County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2025.

Hinton New WTP & Well Project  
Hinton, IA (Plymouth County, Iowa)

**Legend**

 Project Area

Scale:1:24,000







Hinton New WTP & Well Project  
Hinton, IA (Plymouth County, Iowa)

Plymouth County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2025.

Scale:1:9,500

Legend

 Project Area

