

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

March 13, 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 Sioux City

SRF Number: CS1921120 01

County: Woodbury

Iowa DNR Project Number: W2022-0376A

State: Iowa

Sioux City Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The City of Sioux City, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater 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 Sioux City is located in Woodbury County, Iowa approximately 100 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska and 90 miles south of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The City of Sioux City owns and operates the Sioux City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This WWTP currently serves five communities: Sioux City, South Sioux City, North Sioux City, Sergeant Bluff, and Dakota Dunes. The combined population of the five cities has grown steadily for the past 30 years with an average of 0.54% annual growth. Based on this projection, a design year population of 126,098 population was utilized to project domestic wastewater flows for the year 2043.

The existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was originally constructed in 1960. Its components at the time were influent screening, grit removal, primary clarification, solid digestion, and solids drying. Since then, the WWTP has undergone several major upgrades to add secondary treatment, expand capacity, and modify major unit process. The current major process units for the WWTP are as follows: influent junction structure, hauled waste receiving, mechanical fine screening, grit removal, primary clarifiers, primary effluent pumping, aeration, final clarifiers, disinfection, waste activated sludge thickening, anaerobic digestion, dewatering, and odor control.

Odors generated at the WWTP have impacted the nearby community and have been noticed by people driving on the nearby highways. Odors, in the form of high hydrogen sulfide concentrations have also posed safety hazards for staff and contractors. Various parts of the WWTP are suffering from functional difficulties and

certain parts are requiring frequent, significant maintenance to keep in operation. A significant overhaul of the treatment plant units appears to be necessary in order to increase reliability of performance.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to enhance their reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete systems to safely and reliably operate the Sioux City wastewater system for at least the next 20 years.

The project includes improvements to the existing wastewater treatment facility as outlined in the Facility Plan as Phases 1 and 2. Proposed work at the existing facility includes new primary clarifiers, a new primary influent splitter box, improvements to the existing headworks, modification of the dewatering systems, improvements to the solids storage, biofilter, and digestion systems, and the construction of new aeration basins, final clarifiers, blower, pump station building and lab/administration building. Construction will be phased to provide continuous operations of the existing facility.

The treated wastewater from the proposed WWTP will discharge to the Missouri River. It has a use stream designation of A-1 B(WW-1), HH. This means it is a primary contact recreational water with warm water type 1 aquatic life and is used as a raw water source for drinking water and fish consumption. The receiving stream will not change for this project.

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 provided any necessary permits are obtained and abided by. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. 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 affect the 100-year flood plain provided all necessary floodplain development permits, state and local, are obtained and the terms of which are abided by. 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 and the Certified Local Government 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 or directly to me at Hailey.Andersen@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 321-7385.

Sincerely,

Hailey Andersen
Environmental Specialist
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment Document
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Hazen and Sawyer
McClure Engineering
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Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
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Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority
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Jane Clark, Sierra Club
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development
Tokey Boswell, USDO, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Ann D'Alfonso, USEPA Region VII
The Sioux City Journal

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Sioux City

County: Woodbury

State: Iowa

Sioux City Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

SRF Number: CS1921120 01

Iowa DNR Project Number: W2022-0376A

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Sioux City is located in Woodbury County, Iowa approximately 100 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska and 90 miles south of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Population: The City of Sioux City owns and operates the Sioux City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This WWTP currently serves five communities: Sioux City, South Sioux City, North Sioux City, Sergeant Bluff, and Dakota Dunes. The combined population of the five cities has grown steadily for the past 30 years with an average of 0.54% annual growth. Based on this projection, a design year population of 126,098 population was utilized to project domestic wastewater flows for the year 2043.

Current Waste Treatment: The existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was originally constructed in 1960. Its components at the time were influent screening, grit removal, primary clarification, solid digestion, and solids drying. Since then, the WWTP has undergone several major upgrades to add secondary treatment, expand capacity, and modify major unit process. The current major process units for the WWTP are as follows: influent junction structure, hauled waste receiving, mechanical fine screening, grit removal, primary clarifiers, primary effluent pumping, aeration, final clarifiers, disinfection, waste activated sludge thickening, anaerobic digestion, dewatering, and odor control.

Odors generated at the WWTP have impacted the nearby community and have been noticed by people driving on the nearby highways. Odors, in the form of high hydrogen sulfide concentrations have also posed safety hazards for staff and contractors. Various parts of the WWTP are suffering from functional difficulties and certain parts are requiring frequent, significant maintenance to keep in operation. A significant overhaul of the treatment plant units appears to be necessary in order to increase reliability of performance.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to enhance their reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete systems to safely and reliably operate the Sioux City wastewater system for at least the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The project includes improvements to the existing wastewater treatment facility as outlined in the Facility Plan as Phases 1 and 2. Proposed work at the existing facility includes new primary clarifiers, a new primary influent splitter box, improvements to the existing headworks, modification of the dewatering systems, improvements to the solids storage, biofilter, and digestion systems, and the construction of new aeration basins, final clarifiers, blower, pump station building and lab/administration building. Construction will be phased to provide continuous operations of the existing facility.

Receiving Stream: The treated wastewater from the proposed WWTP will discharge to the Missouri River. It has a use stream designation of A-1 B(WW-1), HH. This means it is a primary contact recreational water with warm water type 1 aquatic life and is used as a raw water source for drinking water and fish consumption. The receiving stream will not change for this project.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: With so many components in poor condition and/or undersized for expected flows, multiple alternatives were seriously considered for the new WWTP. Alternatives to construct a new WWTP at the greenfield site south of Sioux City (away from residential areas) were considered alongside alternatives to renovate and rebuild the WWTP at the existing site.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the existing reliability issues; a no-action alternative would only result in continued deterioration of the existing facilities. Treatment alternatives were screened, developed, and evaluated in collaboration with the City over the course of several workshops. Alternatives were evaluated on the basis of safe operation and maintenance, ease of operation and maintenance, reliable and effective treatment performance, modularity to allow for future growth, and improvement of public perception of the wastewater utility. The location of the project was selected on the availability of land, cost of conveyance, and flood plain protection needed as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on January 22, 2024 at 4:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was made available by publication in the Sioux City Journal 14 times from December 14, 2023 through January 13, 2024. 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 provided an opportunity 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
- Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
- Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section
- 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
Sioux City Historic Preservation Commission

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”).

This project may require the disposal of sewage sludge. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the disposal of any sewage sludge complies with applicable requirements found in 40 CFR Part 503 and 567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 67.

Historical/Archaeological: Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area and the Certified Local Government 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: Iowa DNR Flood Plains, Iowa DNR Sovereign Lands, and USACE were provide an opportunity to comment on the original area of potential effect. Since that time, the project area has changed slightly. The current project area was screened for the presence of wetlands, floodplains, and sovereign lands. SRF notified the applicant that additional permit applications for this project may be necessary. The City must obtain any necessary permits (local, state, federal) prior to construction to mitigate any impacts to wetlands and floodplains that may be present in the project area. 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. 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 Sioux City 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 treatment of the wastewater from the City of Sioux City and improved odor control in residential neighborhoods.

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 provided any necessary permits are obtained and abided by.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. 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 affect the 100-year flood plain provided all necessary floodplain development permits, state and local, are obtained and the terms of which are abided by.
- 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 and the Certified Local Government 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 92.8(1)"b" for wastewater 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

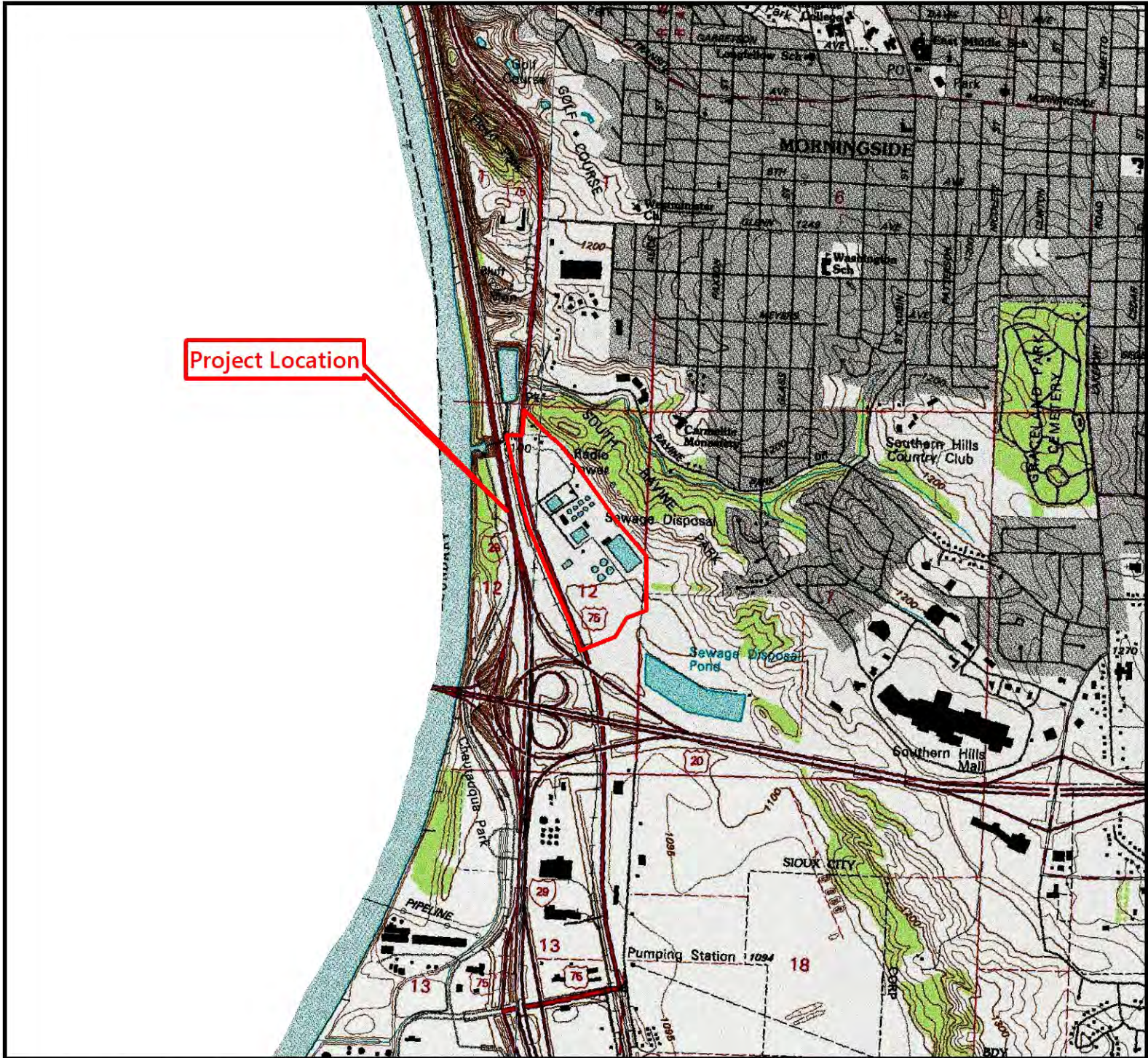
a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) and does not rise to the significance of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with 40 CFR § 1501.5.

Hailey Andersen

Environmental Review Specialist

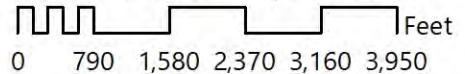
State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
Sioux City, Iowa (Woodbury County)

Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 feet



USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle:
Sioux City South and Sergeant Bluff
Section: 12, Township: 88 N, Range: 48 W
Date: 1993

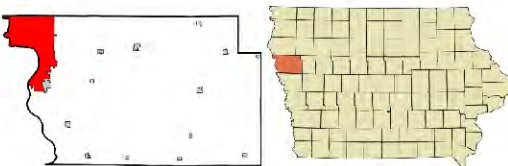
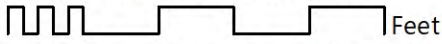


Image source: Wikipedia, 2024.



Legend
 Project Area

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Sioux City, Iowa (Woodbury County)

Scale: 1 inch = 510 feet
 Feet
0 200 400 600 800 1,000

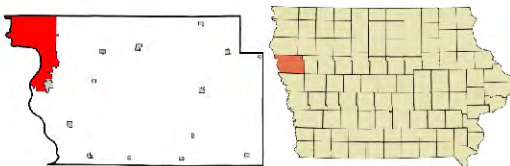


Image source: Wikipedia, 2024.

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle:
Sioux City South and Sergeant Bluff
Section: 12, Township: 88 N, Range: 48 W