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
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

October 20, 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 Lime Springs
County: Howard
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-45-26-DWSRF-024
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2025-0463

The City of Lime Springs, 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. SRF 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 proposed project is the rehabilitation of the City's existing 100,000-gallon water tower.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from NEPA review specified in the 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and was determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will not be prepared.

Justification for granting categorical exclusion:

- The project as proposed is solely directed toward minor upgrading or minor expansion of system capacity, rehabilitation of the existing system and system components, or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities.
- This project will not involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water.
- This project will not result in substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water.
- The project will not serve a population 30% greater than the existing population.
- The project is not directly or indirectly involved or related to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development.
- The project is not counter to the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy.

- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to conflict with federal, state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental, resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of an exclusion, the state determines that:

- The proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project; or
- New evidence reveals that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- Federal, State, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of supporting information that is on file at the Department of Natural Resources' Des Moines, Iowa office. This information is available upon request. 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 Digitally signed by Nicole Osborn Date: 2026.10.20 07:17:11 -05'00'

Nicole Osborn
Environmental Review Specialist
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200

Des Moines, IA 50321

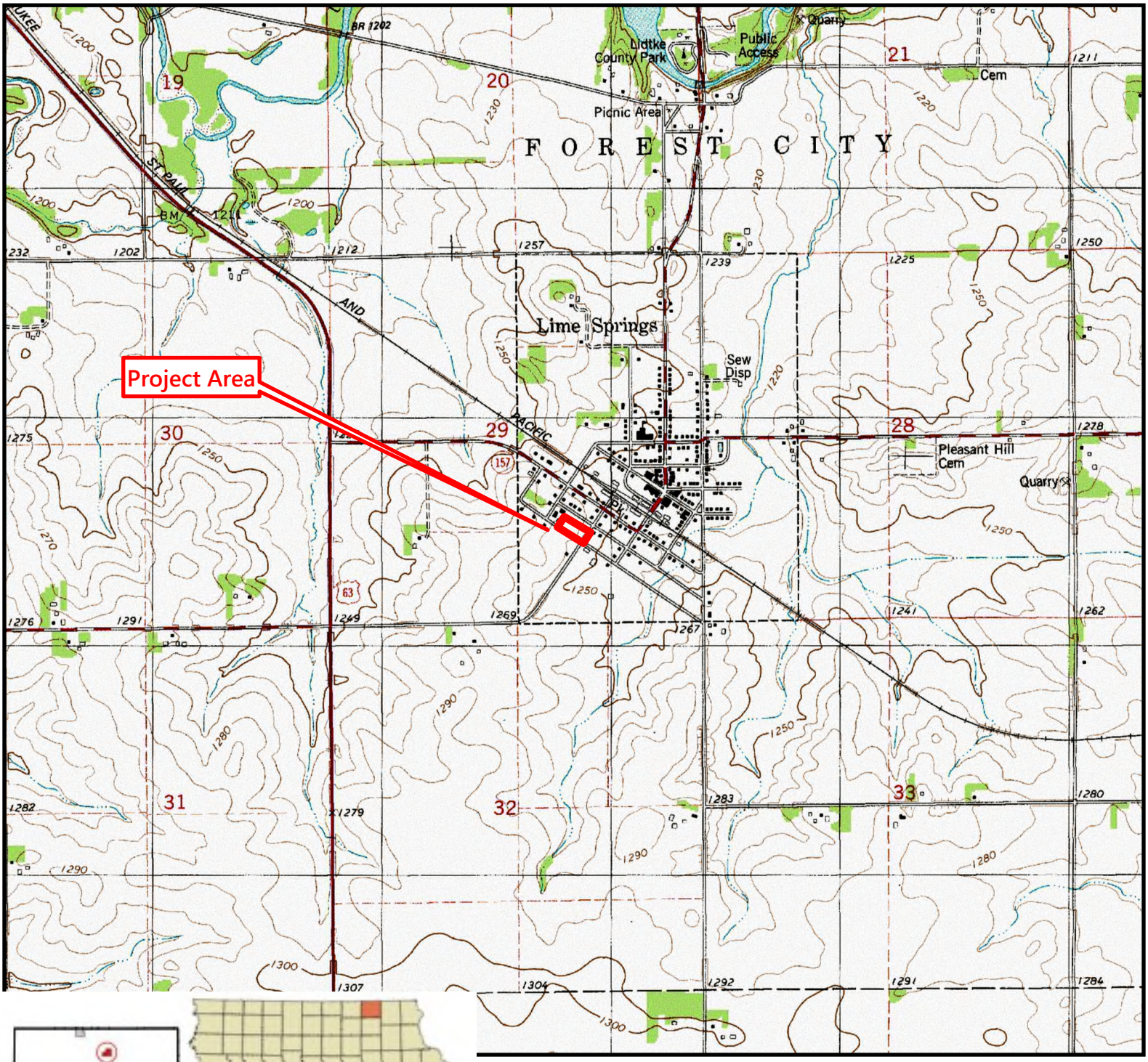
Enclosure: Project Map

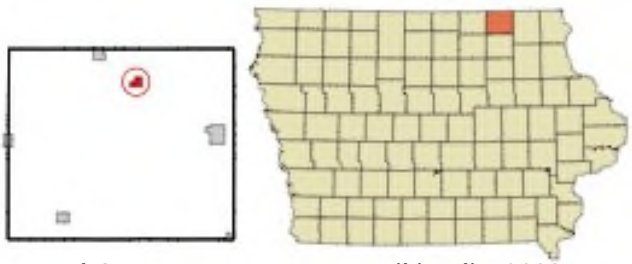
Distribution List (email):
Katie Sterk, Bolton-Menk Inc.
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Mindy Wells, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Terie Taylor-Wolf, Iowa Economic Development Authority
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, USDOI, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeek, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Ann D'Alfonso, USEPA Region VII
Cresco Times Plain Dealer

IOWA State Revolving Fund

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Lime Springs
Section: 29, Township: 100 N, Range: 12 W
Date: 1981

N





Howard County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2023.

Lime Springs Water System Improvements
Lime Springs, IA (Howard County, Iowa)

Legend

Project Area

Scale: 1:24,000

0 990 1,980 2,970 3,960 4,950 Feet

IOWA State Revolving Fund

2025 Aerial

N

Howard County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2023.

Lime Springs Water System Improvements
Lime Springs, IA (Howard County, Iowa)

Legend

Project Area

Scale: 1:2,000

0 80 160 240 320 400 Feet