



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

LISA BONNETT, DIRECTOR

Project Summary and Notice of Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Date: **MAR - 2 2016**

Loan Applicant: Frankfort

IEPA Loan Project Number: L175363

To all interested persons:

Section 365.530 of the Illinois Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program requires that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) publish a Notice of Categorical Exclusion for proposed wastewater projects which are of 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

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Notice of Intent to Issue a Categorical Exclusion

In accordance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Loan Rules, Title 35, Subtitle C, Chapter II, Part 365.530 (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 report is based on information submitted to the IEPA by the Village of Frankfort, Illinois. The source of information includes the following documents: Village of Frankfort, Illinois Facilities Planning Report written by Baxter & Woodman dated March 2015 and a revised Village of Frankfort Facilities Planning Report dated September 10, 2015. Additional documentation was obtained from loan application documents and compiled by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Part I – Project Information

Project Name: Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Consolidation Project

Loan Applicant: Village of Frankfort

County: Cook, Will

Project Number: L175363

Current Population: 40,000

Future Population (20 year): 50,000

Project Description: Wastewater treatment operations at the City's three WWTP's will be consolidated at the Regional WWTP. Consolidation will be broken down into several projects. The first project is the construction of two new pump stations. A new pump station will be constructed on the site of the existing West WWTP. It will redirect wastewater from the West WWTP to the Regional WWTP. The West Pump Station will discharge into two force mains: an existing force main that runs to the Regional WWTP Headworks, and a new force main that will run to the regional excess flow storage pond. The other new pump station, the North Pump Station, will be constructed on the site of the existing North WWTP. It will redirect wastewater from the North WWTP to the Regional WWTP. The North Pump Station will discharge into two force mains: a new force main that will run to the North Excess Flow Storage Pond and a new force main that will discharge into a new interceptor sewer. The new interceptor sewer will discharge into an existing interceptor sewer that is tributary to the Hickory Creek Pump Station. Both of the new pump stations will be trench style submersible pump stations. Each station will have a cast-in-place concrete wet well/valve vault, five submersible pumps, ductile iron discharge pipe and fittings, valves, standby generator and enclosure, and a new electric service.

The second project will consist of a new lab building and updates to the headworks. The headworks portion consists of replacing the existing mechanically cleaned screen and adding a second mechanical screen and a second grit tank. These systems are housed in the preliminary treatment building. The existing laboratory is at the West WWTP. Since the West WWTP will be demolished, a new lab building is required. It will be constructed at the Regional WWTP.

The new lab building will include a laboratory, locker rooms, break room, mechanical room, network room and a 3-bay garage.

The third project will be broken into project 3A and 3B. Project 3A will consist of an excess flow storage pond and a return pump station at the Regional WWTP. The excess flow storage pond will provide flow equalization. During rainstorms/snowmelts, the excess flow storage pond will capture excess flow and store it for subsequent treatment by the Regional WWTP. After the event is over, the excess flow pond return lift station will pump the contents of the pond to the Regional WWTP Headworks. Depending on topography and hydraulics, it is possible the flow from the excess flow storage pond may be returned to the Regional WWTP Headworks by gravity. Project 3B consists of the West Pump Station excess flow force main. The West Pump Station excess flow force main will transport excess flow to the Regional WWTP excess flow storage pond.

The final project will also be broken up into 7A and 7B. Project 7A will involve the demolition of the North and West WWTPs. The North WWTP will be demolished to provide space for the North Excess Flow Storage Pond. The West WWTP will also be demolished with only the new West Pump Station remaining on site. Project 7B will involve the construction of the North Excess Flow Storage Pond at the North WWTP site. This will provide flow equalization and during large rain events it will capture excess flow and store it for subsequent treatment by the Regional WWTP. After the large rain/snow event is over, the North Excess Flow Storage Pond will drain by gravity to the North Pump Station.

Project Location: The proposed project improvements will occur at the Regional, North and West WWTPs, located at 20538 S. La Grange Rd, 422 S. Spruce Dr., and 460 Ohio St., respectively. See attached map for project locations.

Project Justification: There are major operational concerns with equipment failure at the North WWTP. This is due to the age of the plant. Electrical components are antiquated and replacement of many electrical parts is needed. There have also been issues in the past with meeting required ammonia limits. In addition, the raw sewage pump station located at the North WWTP is corroded and leaking. The West WWTP also has major operational issues. The West WWTP struggles to maintain its ammonia limits and has had exceedances of its chloride limits. Many electrical components at the West WWTP are antiquated and replacement is recommended. The Regional WWTP has consistently met effluent limits. The only concern at the Regional WWTP is related to grit accumulation in tanks, hydraulic challenges, and sludge thickening equipment. These will all be addressed in a future project phase. By abandoning the North and West WWTP and combining them at the Regional WWTP, the treatment process will be improved and more efficient.

Estimated Construction Start/Completion Dates:

Project	Project Name	Start Construction	Complete Construction
1	North and West Pump Stations	May 2016	May 2017
2	WWTP Preliminary Treatment Building and Lab Building	May 2016	May 2017
3A	Regional WWTP Excess Flow Storage Pond and Return Pump Station	January 2017	September 2017
3B	West Excess Flow Force Main	January 2017	September 2017
7A	North WWTP and West WWTP Abandonment	July 2018	June 2019
7B	North Excess Flow Storage Pond	July 2018	June 2019

Project Cost Estimate: All 6 projects \$24,585,700.00

Part II – Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers

The applicant is proposing to finance the project costs with a loan from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP). The current interest rate for fiscal year 2016 is 1.86%. Six different projects are proposed. Some projects are anticipated to receive funding in fiscal year 2017 which would have a slightly different interest rate from that of 2016. Annual repayments, based on the fiscal year 2016 interest rate of 1.86%, on a WPCLP loan in the amount of \$24,585,700.00 for the first 6 projects (Project 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 7A, and 7B) for a term of twenty (20) years would be approximately \$1,473,017.00. Future loans would be subject to the interest rate in effect at time of loan issuance.

Source of Loan Repayment:

A rate increase to monthly user fees of varying percentages ranging from 10% to 20% is proposed through 2020. For FY2016/2017, a 10% rate increase was approved in February 2016. Beyond FY2019/2020, only inflationary rate increases should be necessary each year to adjust for increases in the costs of labor, commodities and contractual services. See table on next page for proposed rate increases.

Fiscal Year	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
% Rate Change	10%	15%	20%	20%	3%
Sewer per 1,000 gallons	\$4.72	\$5.43	\$6.51	\$7.81	\$8.05
Average Residential Sewer Bill for 7,429 gallons	\$35.06	\$40.34	\$48.36	\$58.02	\$59.80

Current Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$31.87

Projected Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: See above table

Average Monthly Residential Water Use: 7,429 gallons

Number of Customers or Service Connections: 11,943 customers

How is the monthly residential rate/cost of service calculated? Current monthly charges include: \$4.29 per 1,000 gallons x 7.429 (average use of sewer) = \$31.87 per month average use

Proposed monthly charges include: FY2016/2017: \$4.72 per 1,000 gallons x 7.429 (average use of water) = \$35.06 (Proposed rate increases from above table can be added into this formula to determine how future year's rates are determined)

Median Household Income (MHI): \$99,227

Percentage of MHI needed to pay the projected average annual residential cost of service:

0.42%

Annual Cost of Service/MHI is an affordability ratio used by IEPA. If less than 2% of the median household income is required to pay the average, annual residential user rate, the project is considered affordable by IEPA standards.

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

Lanina Clark, Project Manager
 Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section
 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
 Bureau of Water
 1021 North Grand Avenue East
 P.O. Box 19276
 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
 (217)782-2027

