



## **State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source**

### **PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**CITY OF RENSSELAER  
WWTP ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT  
ADDENDUM #1  
SRF # WW10043702**

**Date: June 10, 2015**

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in Rensselaer's Preliminary Engineering Report will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

*How were environmental issues considered?*

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.

*Why is additional environmental review not required?*

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

*How do I submit comments?*

Comments can be submitted to:

Amy Henninger, Compliance Officer  
SRF Programs  
317-232-6566; ahenning@ifa.in.gov

---

---

**CATEGORICAL  
EXCLUSION**

---

---

**I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

Project Name and Address: **WWTP Assessment and PER, Addendum #1  
Planning and Design**  
124 S Van Rensselaer Street  
Rensselaer, IN 47978

SRF Project Number: WW10043702

Authorized Representative: The Honorable Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

**II. PROJECT LOCATION**

The City of Rensselaer is located in Jasper County, Indiana. The design work will define a project proposed to be conducted at the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) site located 1750 West Daugherty Road.

**III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE**

The City of Rensselaer has experienced operational issues and NPDES effluent violation with their existing WWTP. The existing WWTP was commissioned in 1962 and although improvements work have been made over the years, it currently exhibits operational issues requiring correction to ensure effluent quality is maintained. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management issued a Violation Letter requiring the City to address these issues. The city will also be required to meet new phosphorous limits in the near future.

The city has decided to retain an engineering firm to complete an assessment of the current WWTP and complete a PER that will address current operating issues requiring correction, assessment of the WWTP's ability to address future treatment requirements, and Biolac treatment pond operation.

The no action alternative was rejected because the WWTP would continue to degrade and not meet the requirements of its NPDES permit.

No construction is associated with this project. This project will only plan and design the necessary improvements to the WWTP. The actual construction project will be implemented at a later date.

**IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING**

The estimated cost of the project is \$49,235. Rensselaer will finance the project with funds remaining in its existing loan from the State Revolving Fund Loan Program.

**V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES**

Since this project will consist only of planning and design engineering services there will be no negative environmental impacts. This planning and design engineering services project has no potential affect to historic sites. Our finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: “no historic properties affected.”

**VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The proposed planning and design was the subject of a public notice posted May 14, 2015 in the Rensselaer Republican. No written comments were received.