



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

HAMMOND WATER WORKS LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT - PHASE 3 SRF Project DW 25 17 45 00

Date: June 5, 2026

Pursuant to IC 5-1.2-3, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the Hammond Water Works Preliminary Engineering Report will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion (CE) 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. In the absence of significant comments, the attached CE shall serve as the final environmental document.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted to:

State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave., IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
publiccomments@ifaf.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Lead Service Line Replacement - Phase 3
 Hammond Water Works
 6505 Columbia Avenue
 Hammond, IN 46320

SRF Project Number: **DW 25 17 45 00**

Authorized Representative: Mark McLaughlin, Chief Executive Officer

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in Lake County, North Township, Calumet City 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 36N, Range 10W, and Section 1, T37N, R10W, and Sections 31 and 36; Lake Calumet 24k USGS Quadrangle, T37N, R10W, Section 25 and T37N, R9W, and Section 30; Whiting 24K USGS Quadrangle Map, T37N, R9W, Section 30; Highland 24k USGS Quadrangle, T37N, R9W, Section 31. See **Figure 1**.

III. PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The City of Hammond Department of Water Works has developed its service line inventory and has identified 700 service lines as high priority for replacement based on lead and galvanized pipe materials. The proposed service line replacement project includes replacement of lead and galvanized service line materials within the Census Tracts 203, 204, 206, 207 and 208 of Hammond Water Works’s water distribution system in an effort to reduce potential risk of lead exposure.

It is proposed that the Participant replace the service lines in accordance with EPA’s Programmatic Requirements for Stand-alone LSLR as outlined in the May 1, 2024, implementation memorandum Implementing Lead Service Line Replacement Projects Funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Participant intends to minimize the time between starting and completing full LSLR for individual service lines (not to exceed a 3 month time period), provide NSF/ANSI-certified filters from the time of initial disturbance to at least 6 months after full replacement is complete, and provide educational materials regarding flushing and filter use best practices to impacted residents.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY, AND FUNDING

The total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$10,000,000. The City of Hammond intends to finance the project with a loan from the Drinking Water SRF Loan Program for a term and annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

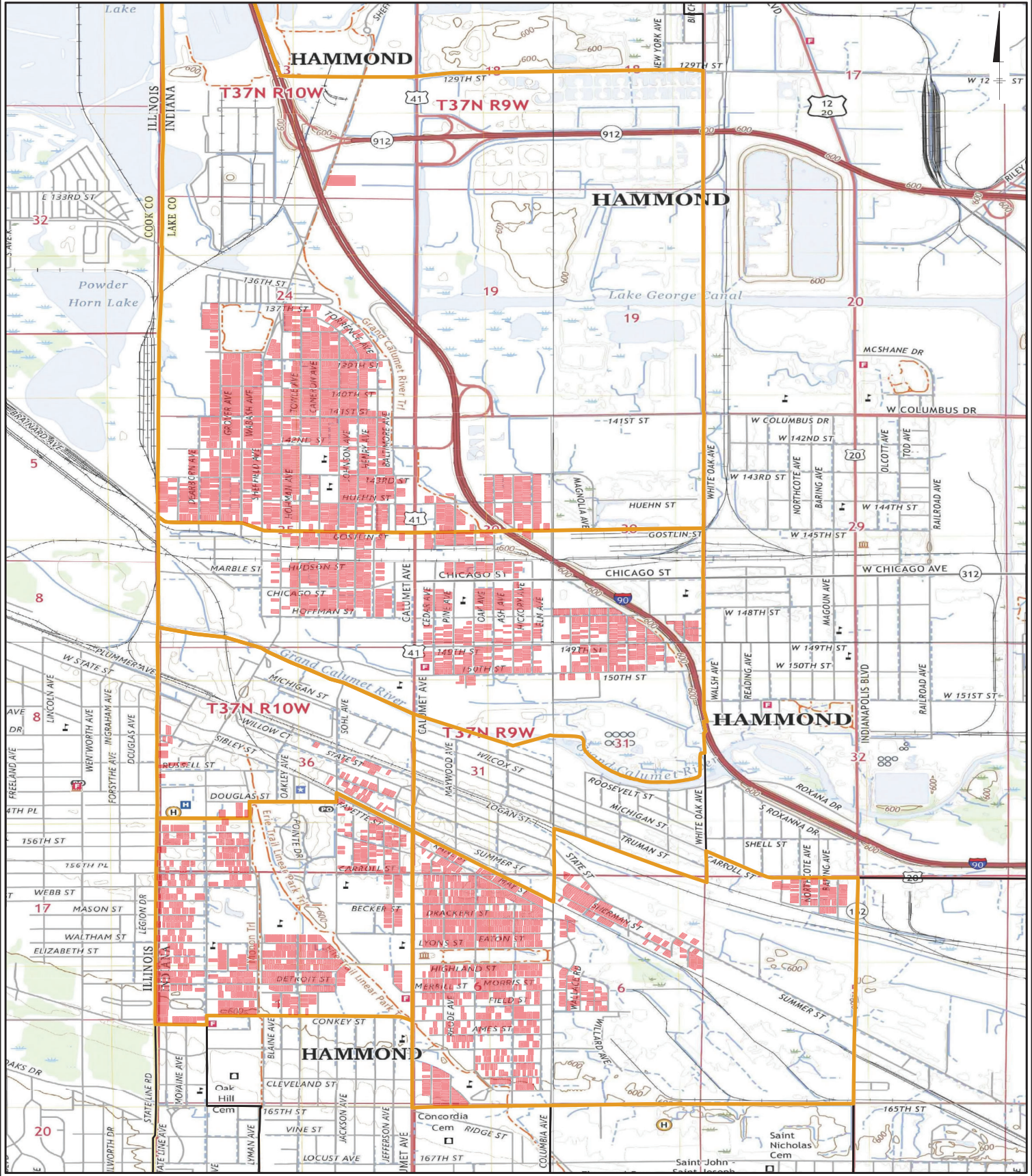
The environmental impacts will be minimal. All project activities will take place in areas previously disturbed by service lines. The proposed project will not affect streams,

floodplains, wetlands, wooded areas, or other sensitive environmental resources and will not convert prime farmland.

Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties. If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

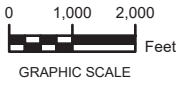
VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on April 25, 2024, at 6:30pm at the Hammond Water Works Conference Room, 6505 Columbia Avenue, Hammond, IN 46320. There were no questions about this project during the hearing. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing for this project. The project was also discussed on May 28, 2026, at the Board Meeting, and no comments were received following the meeting.



Legend

- 2026 LSLR Site Selection
- Project Area
- Hammond Census Tracts



Hammond Water Works
 April 14, 2026

Figure 1: USGS Topography Map



FIGURE