



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

## PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

### CITY OF ROCKPORT WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS SRF Project WW 23 41 74 03

**Date: May 22, 2024**

Pursuant to IC 5-1.2-3, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the City of Rockport's 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:

April Douglas  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
SRF Programs  
317-234-7294  
adouglas@ifa.in.gov

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# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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## I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Wastewater Improvement Projects  
City of Rockport  
426 Main Street  
Rockport, IN 47635

SRF Project Number: **WW 23 41 74 03**

Authorized Representative: Cathy Kirkpatrick, Mayor

## II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Spencer County, Rockport 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 7S, Range 6W and Sections 22, 23, 26 and 27. See **Figure 1**.

## III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Rockport utilizes two Wastewater Treatment Plants, a South WWTP and a North WWTP. Both plants are operating at overloaded conditions and many components have reached the end of their useful life; improvements are needed to continue reliable wastewater treatment. The CSO Long Term Control Plan requires replacement of the North WWTP. The North WWTP replacement will increase the average design flow rate from 0.3 MGD to 1.24 MGD, and the peak design flow rate from 0.6 MGD to 3.18 MGD. Flow from the South WWTP will be redirected to the North WWTP, allowing the South WWTP to be abandoned and eliminating the Ohio River discharge location. The North WWTP Replacement Project will include:

- Headworks, including odor and H<sub>2</sub>S control, metering, and screening;
- New two-tank SBR system, including equalization, clarification, sludge pumping and chemical phosphorus removal;
- UV disinfection system;
- Cascade post aeration and effluent flow meter;
- Approximately 2,300 LF of 36-inch diameter effluent sewer and outfall;
- Aerobic digester improvements, including replacement blowers, pumps and valves;
- Plant site lift station modifications;
- Potable water system improvements;
- Sludge drying beds improvements, and addition of six new sludge drying beds;
- New plant building for chemical, electrical, and storage;
- Lab building improvements, including new lab equipment;
- SCADA system and electrical improvements, including backup power generator;  
and
- Plant site access drives.

Rockport's CSO LTCP requires the following collection system improvements:

- New 9.5 MGD 5<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station with approximately 8,200 LF of 28-inch diameter force main, to deliver flow up to the 10-year 1-hour design storm to the North WWTP;

- New CSO control structure and approximately 480 LF of 30-inch diameter interceptor sewer to redirect a portion of the combined flow to the new 5<sup>th</sup> Street Lift Station;
- Upgraded Ike’s Lift Station, including raised top slab elevation, new pumps, controls and alarms, and approximately 3,000 LF of 4-inch diameter force main to redirect South WWTP flow to the gravity system; and
- Redirected discharge from River Valley Lift Station with approximately 250 LF of 2-inch diameter force main.

Additional collection system improvements, addressing infiltration and inflow and insufficient components, include:

- Sewer investigation, targeted sewer and manhole repair and replacement, including cleaning and televising, point repairs, and approximately 500 LF of 10-inch diameter sanitary sewer lining in Reo collection system;
- Upgrades to Silverdale, Reo, and Base Road Lift Stations in order to increase capacity, including new pumps, controls and alarms; and
- Replacement Country Ridge Lift Station in order to increase capacity, including new pumps, controls and alarms, and approximately 5,000 LF of 4-inch diameter force main.

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

Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$25,746,000. The City of Rockport will finance the project with a loan from the Clean Water SRF Loan Program for a term and annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. This project will be co-funded by USDA Rural Development. 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 installation of the existing WWTP and sewer system. 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 May 6, 2024, at 2 pm at the Rockport City Hall, 426 Main Street, Rockport, IN 47635. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing for this project.

