PUBLIC NOTICE
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As required by guidelines for the preparation of environmental impact statements, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project: Battleview & McGregor Rural Distribution

Western Area Water Supply Authority (WAWSA) and Ray & Tioga Water Supply District (R&T WSD)

Location: Williams, Burke, Divide and Mountrail Counties, North Dakota

DWSRF Project No.: 5301686-02

Total Estimated Cost: $1,105,115

The original Environmental Assessment for this project was completed on October 8, 2024. The original project included the installation of rural water pipes to connect approximately 117 new users to the existing R&T WSD rural distribution system.

The supplemental environmental review to the original project is for the installation of additional rural water pipe to connect 14 new users to the existing rural distribution system. The purpose of these improvements is to provide potable drinking water to users in the rural water service area. This project will ensure that WAWSA and R&T WSD can continue to serve existing and new residents in Williams, Burke, Divide and Mountrail Counties.

The scope of this supplemental environmental review does not cover the entire project but only covers the limited area in which the new users are located.

The Western Area Water Supply Authority has obtained a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan to finance the project. The rural water district has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

This project addition is located in northwestern North Dakota and will include the installation of approximately 25 miles of rural water pipe in Williams, Burke, Divide and Mountrail Counties. For further discussion, see Item V, Environmental Impacts of Proposed Project in the attached Supplemental Environmental Assessment document. Wetlands, area flood plains, threatened or endangered species habitat, or archeological sites will not be adversely impacted. The North Dakota State Historical Society Preservation Office (ND SHPO) has reviewed the report for the project addition titled "AE2S: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Battleview McGregor Add-On Water Pipelines in Burke, Divide, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota" LK267025 from Metcalf Archaeological Consultants. ND SHPO concurs with a determination of "No Adverse Effect" for the project addition (ND SHPO Ref.: 24-0002) provided the project avoids all features as described in the report, provided the project takes place in the manner and location described in the documentation, and provided all borrow comes from an approved source.

The review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an environmental impact statement has been made. This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the engineering report, environmental information document, and other supporting data which are on file in the Municipal Facilities Division of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Mitchell Murray, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

After evaluating the comments received, the agency will make a final decision; however, no administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Dated Oct. 20, 2026.

David J. Bruschwein, P.E.
Director
Division of Municipal Facilities

Oct. 28, 2026