



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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JB Pritzker, Governor

James Jennings, Acting Director

DEC 09 2025

Project Summary and Notice of Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Loan Applicant: City of Rock Island

Loan Project Number: L177726

To all interested persons:

Section 662.330 of the Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Public Water Supply Loan Program requires that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) publish a Notice of Categorical Exclusion for proposed drinking water projects which have little or no potential for causing negative environmental impacts related to their construction. 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 Illinois EPA 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 planning for this project at the close of the public comment period.

The applicant is required to publish a public notice that the Illinois EPA has issued the attached Notice of Intent to Issue a Categorical Exclusion. This document, along with the project plan, 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 Illinois EPA contact person identified in the attached document.

Your interest and participation in this process are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nidhan Singh, M.B.A.

State Revolving Fund Manager

Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section

Bureau of Water

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L177726.docx

Attachment

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1101 Eastport Plaza Dr., Suite 100, Collinsville, IL 62234 • 618-346-5120
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**Project Summary and
Notice of Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review (CatEx)**

The following project summary and environmental assessment has been prepared by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to assist the loan applicant in complying with the public notice requirements. Information in this report was obtained from the following sources: IEPA SRF Project Plan for Water Treatment Plant Improvements, submitted by CDM Smith on behalf of the City of Rock Island in June 2025 and additional documentation obtained and compiled by the Illinois EPA.

Part I – Project Information

Project Name: Water Treatment Plant Improvements

Project Number: L177726

Loan Applicant: City of Rock Island

County: Rock Island

Current Population: 37,108

Future Population (40 year): 30,083

Project Description: The City of Rock Island owns and operates its own Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and distribution system. The City currently uses four 2-million-gallon (MG) storage capacity domes to store potable water at the WTP that were constructed in 1938. A high service pump station was installed in the center of the domes in 1996 to serve the high elevation zones of the distribution system. High service flows range between 0.3 and 6.5 million gallons per day (MGD) with an average flow of 3.4 MGD.

The City is proposing to replace the four aging domes with a two-tank storage configuration that has a total storage capacity of 5 MG. Additionally, the City is proposing to replace the high service pump station with a new potable water wet well and high service pump station. The new pump station will have three pumps, two on duty and one on standby. Each pump will have a design flow of 3.5 MGD at 185 ft total head and variable frequency drive controls for peak hour pumping and operational flexibility.

Project Location: The Rock Island Water Treatment facility is located at 2215 16th Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201. The location of the pump station and domes is across the street at 1600 24th St. See attached maps for detailed project locations.

Project Justification: In 2022, CDM Smith conducted a facility inspection and observed the aging potable water storage domes to be in poor condition with large tears in the tank liner, clogged scupper drains that could result in outside debris contaminating the water supply, deteriorating concrete structures, lack of baffling, and severely corroded pipes. They also observed significant deficiencies during inspection of the high service pump station including, but not limited to, unallowable potable water wet well design, corroded support structures, heavily corroded or missing fasteners, and inoperable pump motors. The station also does not meet current design standards for pump station hydraulics, as well as sanitary and safety elements.

Estimated Construction Start Date: January 01, 2027

Estimated Construction End Date: December 31, 2028

Estimated Project Cost: The estimated total project cost is \$32,650,000. The costs estimate includes design and construction engineering, construction, and contingencies.

Part II – Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers

The City of Rock Island is proposing to finance the project costs with a loan from the Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP). The current loan program interest rate is 2.16%. The interest rate adjusts annually on July 1st. All loans are subject to the interest rate in effect at the time a loan agreement is issued. The base loan term is 30 years. Under these terms, a loan in the amount of \$32,650,000 would have an annual repayment of approximately \$1,479,718. A rate increase will not be necessary to repay the loan.

Source of Loan Repayment: The City of Rock Island Water Enterprise Fund

Current Average Monthly Residential Water Use: 524 cubic feet (cu ft)/ 1,572 cu ft per quarter

Current Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$40.94

The City currently charges residential customers a quarterly meter service fee of \$47.21 and \$4.81 per 100 cubic feet of water used. Assuming an average quarterly usage of 1,572 cu ft, the average monthly cost of service can be shown as the following: $47.21 + 1572(\$4.81/100) = \$122.82/3 = \$40.94$.

Number of Customers or Service Connections: 14,300 residential customers

Median Household Income (MHI): \$57,292

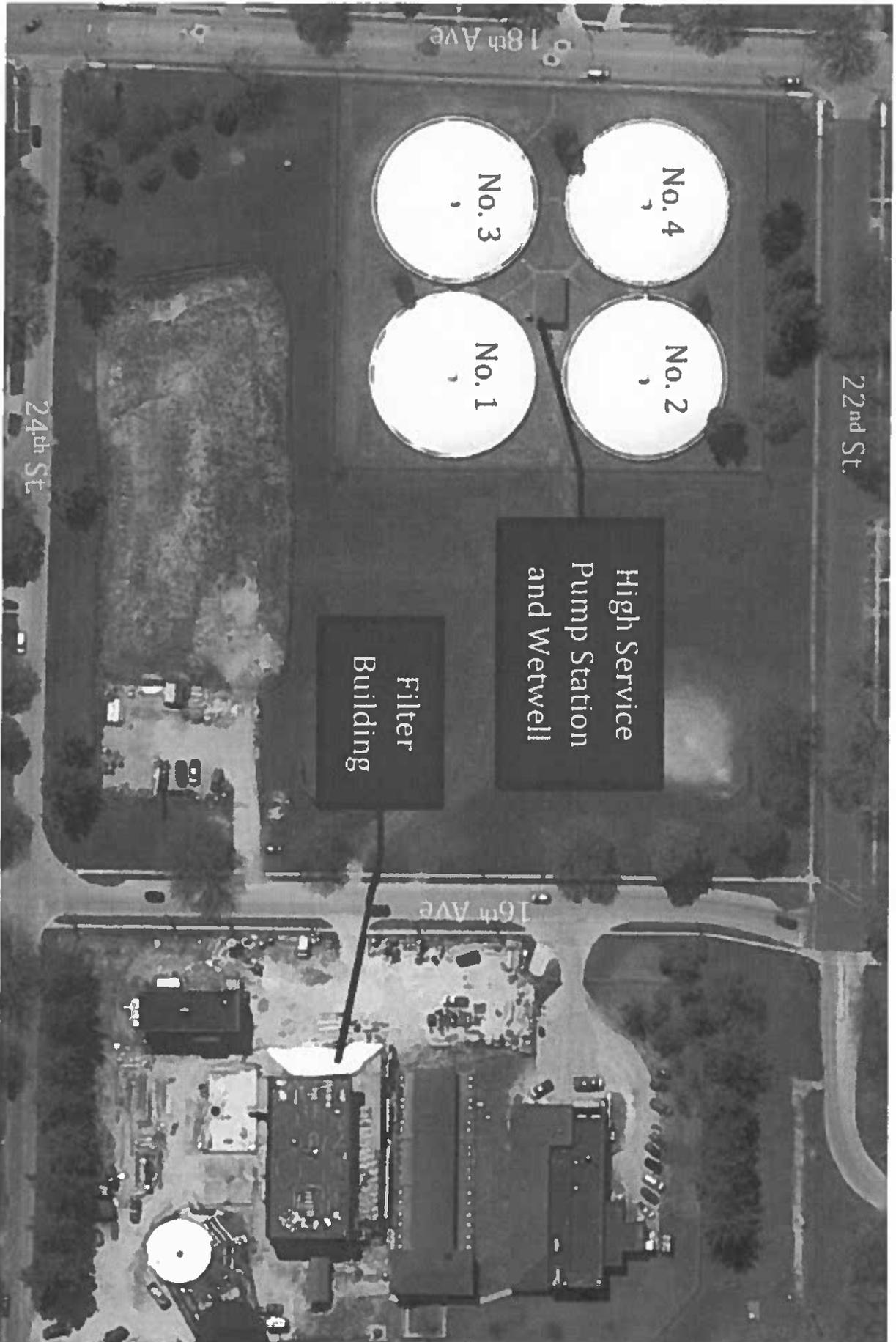
Percentage of MHI needed to pay the projected average annual residential cost of service: 0.86%

Financial Evaluation of the proposed project: To evaluate the costs of the proposed project for the community, a percentage comparison of MHI to the average annual cost for water service is utilized. The projected average annual water cost per customer of \$491.28 is 0.86% of the MHI for the City of Rock Island. The percentage is for comparison only and has no impact on whether a project qualifies for funding from the Illinois EPA. The percentage comparison and MHI are two of several criteria used to determine whether a loan project qualifies for interest rate reductions or principal forgiveness.

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

Rachael Armstrong, Project Manager
Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
2520 West Iles Avenue
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
(217) 782-2027

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**CDM
Smith**

Legend

□ Plant Site



Consulting Engineer

Amrou Atassi, CDM Smith

125 S Wacker Drive

Suite 2510

Chicago, IL 60606

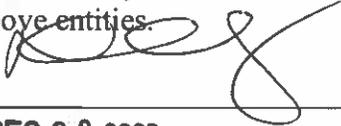
Other Interested Parties

Bcc: Planning File, Chron File

Project Manager: Rachael Armstrong

Date: 12/08/2025

Copies of the Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination/Notice of Categorical Exclusion have been mailed to the above entities.

Signed:  _____

Date: DEC 09 2025