



DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below.

This information reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, please provide them at this time. The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME:	South Sioux City Wastewater Treatmer	nt Facility Expansion
APPLICANT:	City of South Sioux City, NE	
COUNTY:	Dakota County	
POPULATION:	13,706 (2022 Census)	
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318077		
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$64,000,000		
PROPOSED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$22,500,000		
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA):		\$41,500,000

South Sioux City is located in Dakota County, Nebraska that is part of the Sioux City Metropolitan Statistical Area. As of the 2020 census, the city population was 13,706.

The City of South Sioux City is currently planning the construction of an expanded wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) to provide treatment of their domestic wastewater. The existing WWTF is currently only designed to treat wastewater flows from the City's southern industrial area. The project will expand the current WWTF capacity from 2.4 million gallons per day (MGD) to 4 MGD and will accept domestic wastewater from South Sioux City for treatment. Upgrades to the WWTF include a dedicated influent line for untreated domestic wastewater, preliminary treatment for screening and grit removal, 1-2 additional aerobic granular sludge basins, new blowers housing for aeration, and an ultraviolet disinfection chamber will be constructed. Associated foundations, site work, electrical, instrumentation and controls, and mechanical systems will also be incorporated with the expansion.

A Renewable Energy Processing Plant (REPP) will be purchased, rehabilitated, and utilized as part of the project. The REPP facility will need to be renovated to process wastewater solids and biogas. A new pipeline for the transfer of biogas and waste activated sludge (WAS) from the WWTF to the REPP will be established. Part of the CWSRF funding can be directed to the need for approximately 16,000 linear feet of 16-inch pipe will be installed sub gradient to connect the WWTF to the REPP. The route will follow existing utility right-of-way, crossing Avenue C, Dakota Avenue, and a set of railroad tracks, to reach the REPP. The biogas alignment will connect the City's WWTF to the MidAmerican Energy natural gas line. The linear utility project will involve trenching, horizontal boring, and minor excavation, primarily along existing road right of way and easements. Activities may require temporary placement of overburden or spoil before use as backfill, and equipment staging.

In addition, the local sewer collection system will also be renovated; a sanitary sewer system will be installed to collect and deliver domestic wastewater to the WWTF. Improvements to existing lift stations and force mains will be completed. Specifically, the River Lift station will be replaced and upgrades to Bennet Lift Station, Roth Lift station, and Empirical Lift Station are proposed. New pipelines for the conveyance of domestic wastewater from River Lift station to Bennet Lift Station will be installed. Approximately 32,000 linear feet of 16-inch pipe will be positioned sub gradient along Riverview Drive / Veterans Drive beginning at River Lift Station and terminating at Bennet Lift Station where it will connect to an existing line.

Several federal, state, and local agencies were asked to review the project for environmental impacts. The following is a collection of responses:

- **Dakota County Emergency Management:** February 13th, 2024: Commented to show that no data of any kind of environmental issue was found with the proposed project.
- **Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR):** February 15th, 2024: Commented that no potential impacts to jurisdictional dams, stream gages, or surface water rights were identified.
- NeDNR Floodplain Management Section: February 12th, 2024: Commented that portions of the proposed project are located within a regulated 1% annual chance flood hazard area. Nebraska law requires protection to the 100-year base flood elevation plus 1 foot of freeboard. The proposed development is thereby required to be protected to either 500-year floodplain or the 100-year + 1 foot, whichever is greater. Given the specific project is regarded as a critical facility and the 500-year elevation is higher than the 100-year + 1 foot elevation, NeDNR recommends protection to the 500-year elevation on this project.
 - The consulting engineer for the project confirmed that the river lift station will be the only work located inside the floodplain and the finished floor will be raised to above the 500-year flood plain by 1 ft.
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC): February 7, 2024: Commented that based on the review of the information provided, aerial photographs, and the Nebraska Natural Heritage database, the proposed project is located within the range of the state and federally listed endangered northern long-eared bat, and pallid sturgeon; the state listed endangered sturgeon chub and the state listed threatened lake sturgeon. In email correspondence dated February 8, 2024, the consulting engineer confirmed conservation measures (1) No removal of suitable trees or suitable roosting structures between April 1 and October 31 during active roosting/swarming season; (2) Use downward facing, full cut-off lens lights when installing new or replacing existing permanent lights. Then, the NGPC concurred with the project proponent's determination that the

proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect northern long-eared bat and acknowledged no impact is anticipated on all other state listed endangered or threatened species.

- Nebraska Resources Conservation Services (NRCS): February 7th, 2024: Provided comment indicating the project's action would not affect NRCS program administration or implementation on these lands. The proposed site may involve areas of Prime Farmland; a portion of the project to be "land committed to urban development" due to its location within city limits of South Sioux City. Also, the installation of sewer lines and appurtenances are not considered a permanent conversion of farmland. The footprint of the above ground structures outside the city limits is less than 1.0 acre. Therefore, this project is exempt from provisions of Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) and no further consideration from protection is necessary.
- Dakota County Planning Commission: February 23rd, 2024: Commented it is in favor of the WWTF expansion in South Sioux City.
- Nebraska State Historical Society (NeSHPO): July 5th, 2024: Provided comment that the proposed undertaking is unlikely to affect any cultural resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for such a listing. Therefore, there will be no historic properties affected is appropriate for this undertaking and the project should proceed as planned.

As required by the NDEE's State Revolving Fund program, and other funding agencies, a Public Hearing was held April 8, 2024, at the South Sioux Council Chambers and convened at 5:00 PM. The hearing was advertised 40 days in advance. The purpose of this public hearing was to discuss the preliminary engineering report and the potential impacts associated with expansion of the existing wastewater treatment facility. All local citizens and any other interested parties, governmental agencies, or groups were encouraged to comment. During the Public Hearing, there were no requests for special services, comments in favor or opposition of the project, or any other public comments made.

The project is eligible for financing through the CWSRF and is included on the Priority Funding List in the State Fiscal Year 2025 Intended Use Plan. The total estimated project cost is \$64,000,000, of which \$22,500,000 will be funded through SRF program. The City is eligible for a 30-year loan at an annual interest rate of 0.8 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.8 percent of the principal balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from South Sioux City's wastewater utility will be dedicated to repaying the loan. The projected annual CWSRF Debt Service for the project (including 10% debt-service coverage) is \$1,126,134. For a typical residential connection, the current monthly rate is \$60.50. Based on an estimated 3,553 of active service connections, an additional monthly increase of \$26.41 to residential user rates may be needed to pay for the new debt service. In addition, project is scheduled to receive additional funding consisting of \$41.5 million in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) assistance. Combining this funding will have a further increase in the user rates as WIFIA's borrowing rate will be equal to or greater than the U.S. Treasury rate of similar maturity at the date of closing.

The review did not indicate a significant environmental impact will result from the proposed action. Based on analyses completed by the consulting engineer, different federal, state & local agencies, no adverse impacts are anticipated to wetlands, the floodplain, or historical resources. The project was planned to ensure that no segment of the community's population is impacted disproportionately from related effects. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

This action is taken based on a careful review of the engineering reports and other supporting data that are on file with NDEE. All are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. The NDEE will not take any administrative action on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date shown below. Persons having a comment on this determination are encouraged to submit such comments to the NDEE State Revolving Fund Program at ndee.srf@nebraska.gov, or by phone at (402) 471-4200.

Signed this 25th day of June , 2025.

Sincerely,

Sand Stanke

Sarah Starostka Administrator Planning & Aid Division

Attachments:

Environmental Assessment Distribution List Map

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

A. Project Identification:

Applicant: City of South Sioux CityProject No.: C318016City: City of South Sioux CityCounty: Dakota CountyEstimated Project Cost: \$64,000,000

B. Community Description:

Location: The City of South Sioux City is in Dakota County in Northeastern Nebraska.

Population: According to the 2020's census, the current population of City of South Sioux City is 13,706.

Project Description: The City of South Sioux City is currently planning the construction of an expanded wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) to provide treatment of their domestic wastewater. The existing WWTF is currently only designed to treat wastewater flows from the City's southern industrial area. The project will expand the current WWTF capacity from 2.4 million gallons per day (MGD) to 4 MGD and will accept domestic wastewater from South Sioux City for treatment. Upgrades to the WWTF include a dedicated influent line for untreated domestic wastewater, preliminary treatment for screening and grit removal, 1-2 additional aerobic granular sludge basins, new blowers housing for aeration, and an ultraviolet disinfection chamber will be constructed. Associated foundations, site work, electrical, instrumentation and controls, and mechanical systems will also be incorporated with the expansion.

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In addition, the local sewer collection system will also be renovated; a sanitary sewer system will be installed to collect and deliver domestic wastewater to the WWTF. Improvements to existing lift stations and force mains will be completed. Specifically, the River Lift station will be replaced and upgrades to Bennet Lift Station, Roth Lift station, and Empirical Lift Station are proposed. New pipelines for the conveyance of domestic wastewater from River Lift station to Bennet Lift Station will be installed. Approximately 32,000 linear feet of 16-inch pipe will be positioned sub gradient along Riverview Drive / Veterans Drive beginning at River Lift Station and terminating at Bennet Lift Station where it will connect to an existing line.

Alternatives Considered:

1. No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative is to continue to send domestic wastewater to Sioux City, Iowa. This alternative fails to meet the purpose for this proposed action and the South Sioux City wastewater treatment facility will only treat the primary industrial sources.

- 2. Action Alternative Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion
 - a) Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion
 - b) Domestic Wastewater Conveyance System
 - c) Renewable Energy Production Plant (REPP) Purchase
 - d) REPP Facility Renovation & Pipeline Connection to WWTF
 - e) Biogas Alignment

Evaluation and Selection of the Alternative: It is the community's goal to treat all wastewater generated in the city at one central location owned and operated by them. The existing capacity restrictions and anticipated rate increases are limiting future growth for the industries and the City. Therefore, no-action alternative is not considered.

Environmental Impact Summary:

Primary:

Construction: Temporary impacts caused by construction include noise and dust, a limited potential for soil erosion, and fuel/oil spills. All demolition, grading, and construction activities will comply with Fugitive Dust Title 129, Chapter 32 regulations. No wastewater bypasses are expected during construction. A construction permit will be obtained from the NDEE in accordance with Title 123.

Environmental: Several federal, state, and local agencies were asked to review the project for environmental impacts. The following is a collection of responses:

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- **Dakota County Planning Commission**: February 23rd, 2024: Commented it is in favor of the WWT expansion in South Sioux City.
- Nebraska State Historical Society (NeSHPO): July 5th, 2024: Provided comment that the proposed undertaking is unlikely to affect any cultural resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for such a listing. Therefore, there will be no historic properties affected is appropriate for this undertaking and the project should proceed as planned.

Financial: The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is included on the Priority Funding List in the State Fiscal Year 2025 Intended Use Plan. The total estimated project cost is \$64,000,000, of which \$22,500,000 will be funded through SRF program. The City is eligible for a 30-year loan at an annual interest rate of 0.8 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.8 percent of the principal balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from South Sioux City's wastewater utility will be dedicated to repaying the loan. The projected annual CWSRF Debt Service for the project (including 10% debt-service coverage) is \$1,126,134. For a typical residential connection, the current monthly rate is \$60.50. Based on an estimated 3,553 of active service connections, an additional monthly increase of \$26.41 to residential user rates may be needed to pay for the new debt service. Please note that South Sioux City's WWTF expansion project is scheduled to receive additional funding consisting of \$41.5 million in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

(WIFIA) assistance. Combining this funding will have a further increase in the user rates as WIFIA's borrowing rate will be equal to or greater than the U.S. Treasury rate of similar maturity at the date of closing.

Secondary:

Population Impacts: The design for the proposed wastewater improvement project has taken into consideration the population trends.

Environmental: Minimal solid waste generated by the project will be disposed of in a licensed landfill. No safety, vibration, noise, or aesthetic considerations were identified other than the normal noise and disruptions associated with sewer and wastewater treatment facility construction.

Environmental Justice: The proposed project will not produce any environmental justice concerns. All structures will be placed in areas already disturbed through agriculture, and the services provided by the wastewater improvements will be available to everyone in the city, equally. No segments of South Sioux City's population are impacted disproportionately from related effects.

Mitigation measures necessary to eliminate adverse environmental effect: Proper construction techniques will be utilized to minimize soil erosion and other potential impacts of construction. An NPDES Construction Storm Water General Permit for stormwater runoff associated with construction activity and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be required by NDEE since more than one acre of land will be disturbed. The community can designate the General Contractor as the authorized representative on the Storm Water Permit Notice of Intent submitted to the NDEE. Authorization of storm water runoff from the construction activities must be in place prior to commencing construction.

Irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources: The resources committed to the project include the equipment, materials, and energy used in construction.

C. Measures Taken to Ensure Environmental Soundness:

Public Involvement: As required by the NDEE's State Revolving Fund program, and other funding agencies, a Public Hearing was held April 8, 2024, at the South Sioux Council Chambers and convened at 5:00 PM. The hearing was advertised 40 days in advance. The purpose of this public hearing was to discuss the preliminary engineering report and the potential impacts associated with expansion of the existing wastewater treatment facility. All local citizens and any other interested parties, governmental agencies, or groups were encouraged to comment.

Public Opposition or Opinions: During the Public Hearing, there were no requests for special services, comments in favor or opposition of the project, or any other public comments made.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:

Federal: U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS, February 2024

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, February 2024

State:Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, February 2024NE Game and Parks Commission, February 2024,
NE State Historic Preservation Office, July 2024.County:Dakota County Emergency Management, February 2024Consulting Engineers:JEO, South Sioux City, NebraskaPublic Groups:City of South Sioux City Residents

D. Reasons for Concluding there will be no Significant Impacts: Review of the engineering reports and supporting information indicates that the proposed project will result in no significant impact to the environment. No adverse impacts are anticipated to wetlands, the floodplain, or historical resources. All necessary permits for construction have been or will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (i.e., NDEE, the Corps of Engineers, etc.), if necessary.



Reviewing Engineer

6/24/25

Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DISTRIBUTION LIST South Sioux City, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

ndee.nepa-review@nebraska.gov P.O. Box 98922 Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES John Miller, Permits and Registrations Division john.j.miller@nebraska.gov P.O. Box 94676 Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION Melissa Marinovich, Environmental Review ngpc.envreview@Nebraska.gov P.O. Box 30370 Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY hn.hp@nebraska.gov P.O. Box 82554 Lincoln, NE 68508-2554

STATE OFFICE OF POLICY RESEARCH Cicely Wardyn, Policy Advisor cicely.wardyn@nebraska.gov Rm 1319, State Capitol P.O. Box 94601 Lincoln, NE 68509-4601

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Tom Stephens, Financial Packager tom.stephens@nebraska.gov 245 Fallbrook Blvd., Suite 002 Lincoln, NE 68521

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Janae Johnson <u>nebraskaES@fws.gov</u> 9325 South Alda Road Wood River, NE 68883

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Christine Gabriel, Environmental Coordinator/Midwest <u>mwro_compliance@nps.gov</u> 601 Riverfront Drive Omaha, NE 68102-4226 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT Kelley Messenger <u>kelley.messenger@usda.gov</u> Room 308, Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, NE 68508

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Chris Simmons; Angela Puls <u>simmons.christopher@epa.gov; puls.angela@epa.gov</u> 11201 Renner Blvd *Mail Code: WWPDWIMB* Lenexa, KS 66219

STATE CONSERVATIONIST Robert Lawson, Natural Resources Conservation Svc. <u>robert.lawson@usda.gov</u> Federal Building, Room 152 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Jeremy Grauf, State Program Manager -US Army Corps of Engineers Jeremy.grauf@usace.army.mil Nebraska State Office, Suite 1 8901 South 154th Street Omaha, NE 68138-3621

APPLICANT: CITY OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY Nanci Walsh, City Clerk <u>nwalsh@southsiouxcity.org</u> 1615 1st Ave. South Sioux City, NE 68776

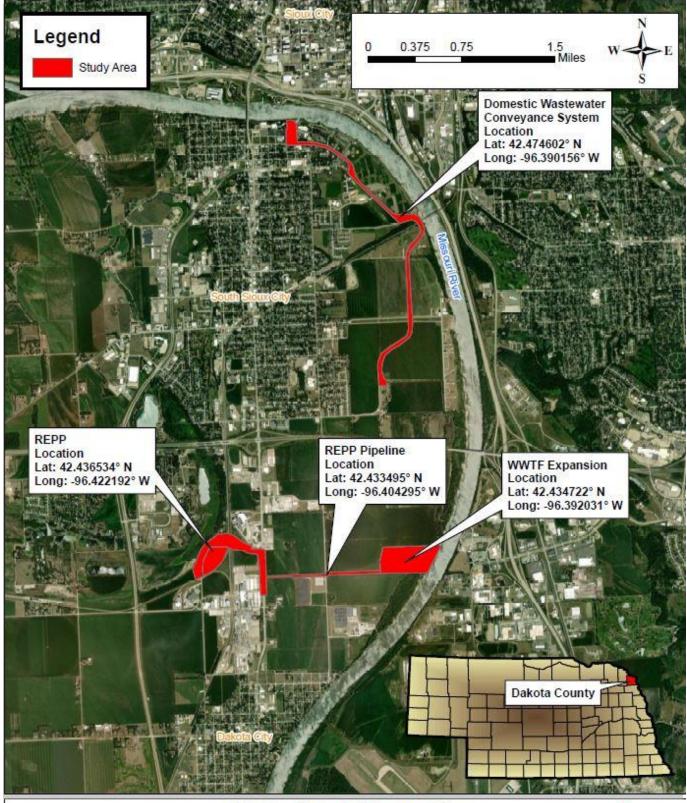
CONSULTING ENGINEER: JEO CONSULTING GROUP Ethan Joy, P.E. <u>nwalsh@southsiouxcity.org</u> 1909 Dakota Ave. South Sioux City, NE 68776

LOCAL NEWSPAPER: DAKOTA COUNTY STAR

HQ@sturekmedia.com 313 Main St. Pender, NE 68047 (Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NRD

papadmin@papionrd.org 8901 S. 154th St. Omaha, NE 68138-3621



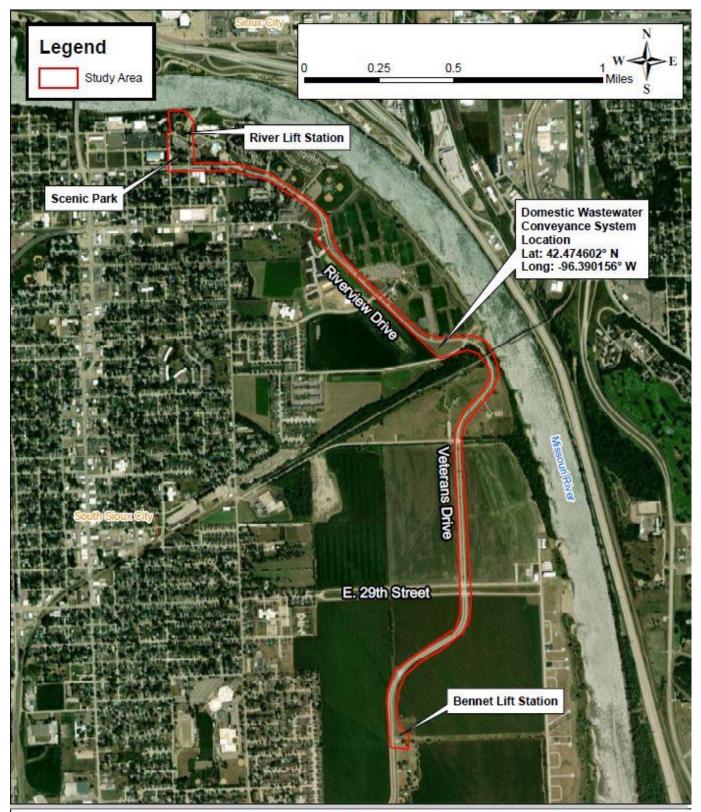
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HDR - South Sioux City WWTF Expansion

Figure 1 - Aerial Location Map Dakota County, Nebraska





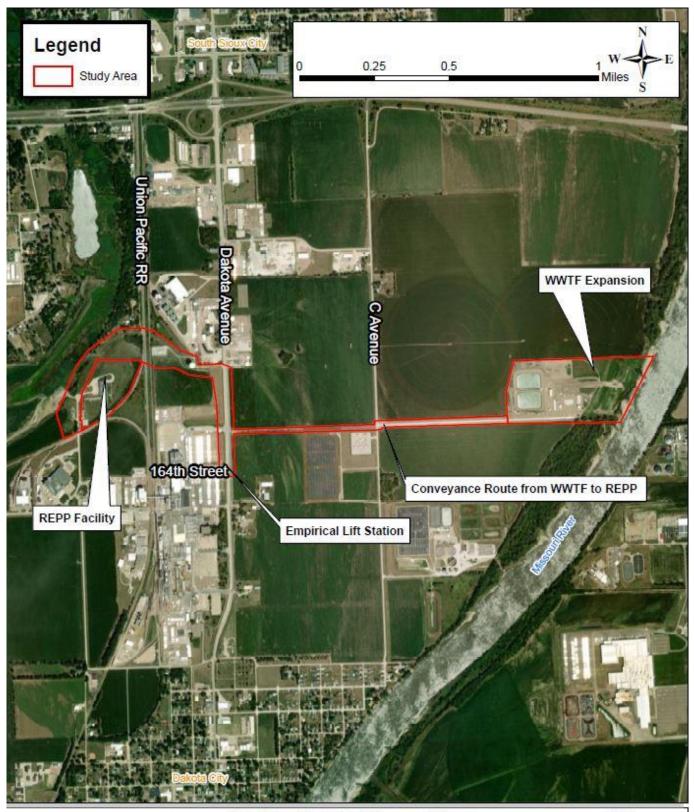
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HDR - South Sioux City WWTF Expansion

Figure 2 - Lift Station / Conveyance Route Dakota County, Nebraska





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HDR - South Sioux City WWTF Expansion

Figure 3 - REPP / Conveyance / WWTF Dakota County, Nebraska



