



## DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Drinking Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 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 wholly or in part 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: Village of Hallam Well  
APPLICANT: Village of Hallam  
COUNTY: Lancaster  
POPULATION: 268 (2020 Census)  
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311721  
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$700,000  
PROPOSED DWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$700,000

The Village of Hallam has applied for funding, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program administered by the NDEE, to construct a new deep water well to replace Well 62-1, which has reached the end of its useful life. The new well will ensure that Hallam has a consistent source of safe drinking water into the future.

The community was listed on the Planning List in the State Fiscal Year 2025 Intended Use Plan (IUP) and ranked at 70 priority points. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEE, this project was determined to be eligible for a 30-year loan at an interest rate of 0.70%, per the criteria listed in the IUP. In addition to principal and interest, an administrative fee of 0.70% of the loan balance will be assessed. The current residential water rate is \$35.00 per month, with an added consumption charge of \$4.00 for every 1,000 gallons of water used. The typical long-term annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$33,850. Based upon the 123 active service connections, residential water rates may need to be raised a minimum of \$22.93 per month to address the new debt service.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from a National Environmental Policy Act review specified in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference, and the Department has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared. The proposed project will be within the existing footprint of Well 62-1. Justification for categorical exclusion includes:

- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect state or federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric archaeological or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- Based on a review of the available mapping, no portion of the project lies within the 100-year floodplain;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population, including altering the character of existing residential areas. Moreover, it is not known to be inconsistent with state or local government, or federally recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans; and
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

The Village has a permit to operate a public water system under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179. The proposed project is determined by NDEE to help the public water system maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by NDEE in November 2022, wherein two significant deficiencies and no minor deficiencies were noted, and current records show they have been addressed. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) program policy. Hallam will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TMF Assessment by the NDEE, to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The NDEE shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of exclusion, the State determines that the proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project; or new evidence reveals that serious local or environmental issues exist; or federal, state, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken on the basis of careful review of the application and other supporting data, which are on file in the office of the NDEE. These are available for public review upon request. Persons having a comment on this categorical exclusion determination are encouraged to submit such comments directly to NDEE State Revolving Fund Program at [ndee.srf@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndee.srf@nebraska.gov), or at 402-471-4200.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

Sincerely,



Sarah Starostka  
Division Administrator

Attachments: Distribution List  
Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST  
VILLAGE OF HALLAM, NEBRASKA

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(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

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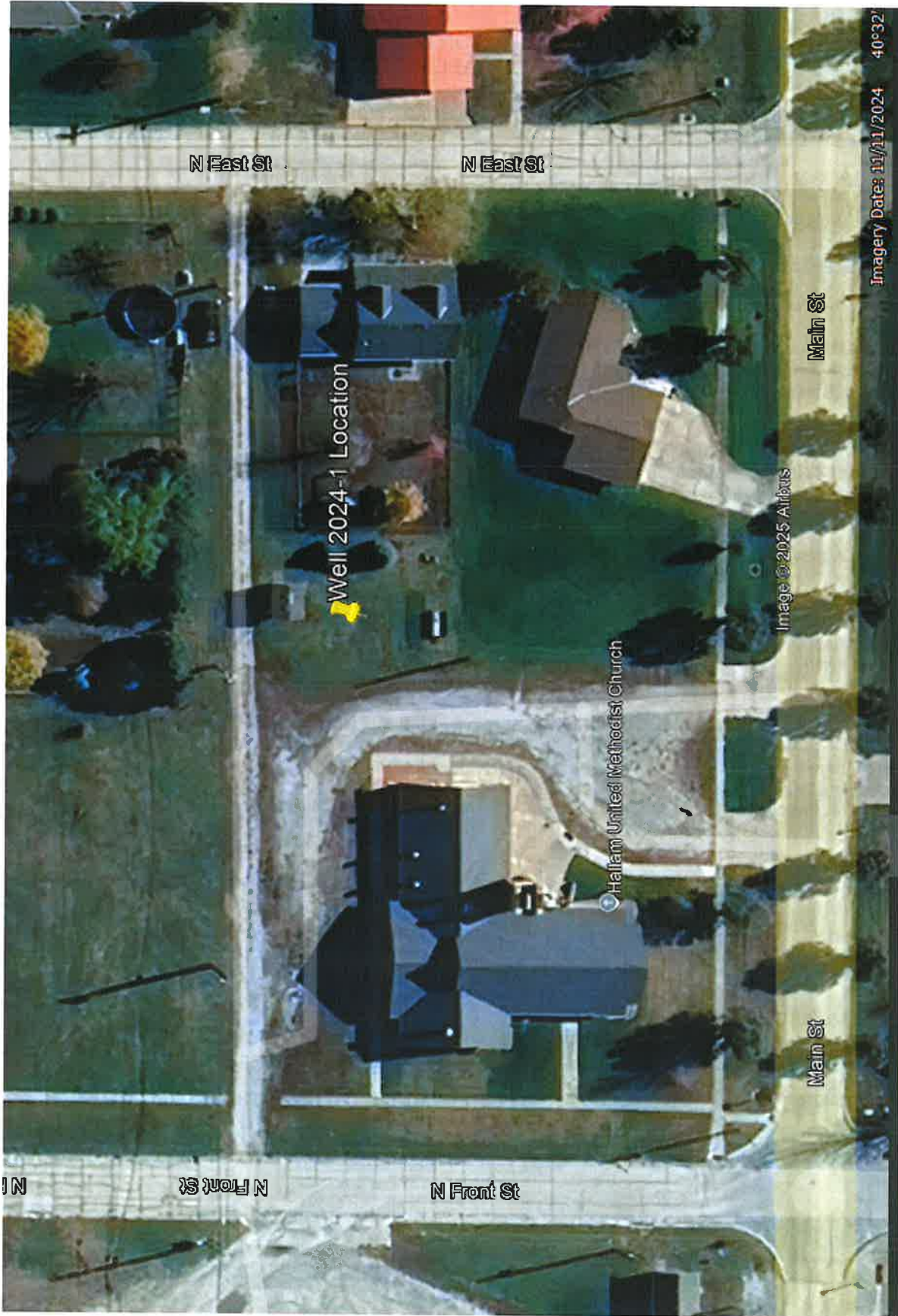


Figure 1: Well 2024-1 Location (South of existing Well 62-1)