

**DRINKING 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 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) 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 Water, Energy, and Environment (NDWEE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Hampton Municipal Water System PER  
APPLICANT: Village of Hampton, NE  
COUNTY: Hamilton County  
POPULATION: 432 (2020 census)  
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311725  
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$6,400,000  
DWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS (28.93%): \$1,851,520  
DWSRF LOAN PRINCIPAL: \$4,548,480

The Village of Hampton has applied for funding for the above-referenced project through the DWSRF program administered by the NDWEE. Hampton has selected one alternative to construct; a water main connection to the City of Aurora. Hampton has experienced high nitrate levels in their system to the point that Well 84-1 has been taken out of service. Well 91-1 remains in service as its nitrate levels are below the maximum contaminant level (MCL), however, water sampling has shown the nitrate levels rising in this well. The City of Aurora is 5.5 miles west of Hampton and is the closest community to Hampton which has available water capacity to sell to Hampton. The proposed project would run approximately 33,400 linear feet of 12-inch PVC water main, along with necessary valves, hydrants, and other appurtenances along East 14 Road between Hampton and Aurora.

According to the Priority Ranking System in the 2025 Intended Use Plan (IUP), this project was ranked with 155 priority points, and it is included on the Project Priority Funding List. Based on documentation on file, the project was determined to be eligible for a DWSRF loan with a corresponding principal forgiveness rate of 28.93%.

The Village of Hampton is located in the eastern part of Hamilton County in central Nebraska near the intersection of US Highway 34 and Nebraska Highway 41D. The community has experienced a relatively stable population since 1980. The 2020 Census population was 432.

The proposed project was reviewed by Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. The majority of the agencies responding indicated there would be no adverse impact, have no effect, or posed no concern.

The Village is eligible for a 30-year loan at an annual interest rate of 0.75 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an annual administrative fee of 0.75 percent of the principal balance will be assessed each year. The revenues from Hampton's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) for the project is \$223,800. For a typical residential connection, the current rate is a base charge of \$30.00 per month plus a usage charge of \$0.00125 per gallon up to 20,000 gallons of water used. This results in an average monthly water bill of \$36.25 per month for a typical 5,000-gallon monthly household water use. Based on 261 active service connections, monthly household rates may need be raised \$71.46 per month to pay for the new debt service. This could create an average monthly user rate of \$107.71 per user per month, or \$1,292 annually. This does not take into account any additional premiums the City of Aurora may impose on Village of Hampton residents to deliver water.

A Public Hearing was held July 14, 2025 with 40 days advanced posted notice. The preliminary engineering report was presented and no public comments were received.

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 NDWEE to help the public water system maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by NDWEE in April of 2024 wherein no deficiencies were found. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) program policy. The Village will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TMF Assessment by the NDWEE to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also, their current Enforcement Targeting Tool score is 0, below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

No significant environmental impacts have been identified that would result from the proposed action. All necessary permits for construction or discharges will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (e.g. NRD, NDWEE, etc.). Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the engineering reports and other supporting data that are on file with NDWEE. All are available for public review upon request. The NDWEE 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 directly to the NDWEE State Revolving Fund Program at [dwee.srf@nebraska.gov](mailto:dwee.srf@nebraska.gov).

Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

Sincerely,



Sarah Starostka  
Administrator  
Planning and Aid Division

Attachments: Environmental Assessment  
Distribution List  
Maps

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

### A. Project Identification:

**Applicant:** Village of Hampton

**Project No.:** D311725

**Village:** Hampton **County:** Hamilton County **State:** NE

**Estimated Project Cost:** \$6,400,000

**Proposed Amount of Loan Forgiveness (up to 28.93%):** \$1,851,520

### B. Community Description:

**Location:** The Village of Hampton is located in the eastern part of Hamilton County in the central part of Nebraska near the intersection of US Highway 34 and Nebraska Highway 41D. It is approximately 5.5 miles east of Aurora.

**Population:** Hampton has experienced relatively stable population since 1980. The 2020 Census population was 432.

**Current Water System Facilities:** The Village's public water system (PWS) consists of two municipal wells, Well 91-1 and Well 84-1 (Well 84-1 is in emergency use only status), a 125,000 gallon single pedestal elevated water storage facility, a distribution system, and water meters.

**C. Project Description:** Hampton has selected one alternative to construct. This alternative is installing approximately 33,400 linear feet of 12-inch PVC pipe to facilitate an interconnection to the City of Aurora's drinking water system.

### D. Alternatives Considered:

Hampton analyzed five potential alternatives in the Hampton Municipal Water System Preliminary Engineering Report:

Alternative No. 1: No Action

Alternative No. 2: New Source Well(s)

Alternative No. 3: Consolidation

Alternative No. 4: Point-of-Use Treatment

Alternative No. 5: New Municipal Water Treatment Plant

Alternatives were defined, opinions of probable cost for construction and installation, human health effects, as well as operations and maintenance cost for each alternative were developed in the Hampton Municipal Water System Preliminary Engineering Report.

**Evaluation and Selection of the Alternative:** The Hampton Municipal Water System Preliminary Engineering Report prioritized the alternatives and selected the alternatives that addressed the priorities identified as immediate needs for projects. The selected alternative is:

Alternative No. 3: Consolidation

**Consolidation:** The connection to the City of Aurora was selected because of the lower cost compared to a new water treatment plant. The cost for the interconnection is slightly higher than developing new source wells. However, finding acceptable source water presents added risk, as there is no guarantee that there will be a low nitrate water source readily available closer than the City of Aurora, as recent tests by the Village and local Natural Resources District indicate increasing nitrate levels area wide. The connection to the City of Aurora provides the most reliable source of water with the best long-term viability.

**E.Environmental Impact Summary:**

**Primary:**

**Construction:** Temporary impacts caused by construction include noise and dust, a limited potential for soil erosion, and fuel/oil spills. A construction permit will be obtained from the Engineering Section of the NDWEE. Additionally, the proposed route crosses the Pioneer Trails Recreation Area and Lincoln Creek. Horizontal directional drilling is anticipated to install the transmission main at these locations.

**Environmental:** The construction contracts will require that the contractors return the area to its original or better condition. The proposed transmission main is located on East 14 Road. There are wetlands delineated on the project route, which are shown in Figure 2 of this document. The wetlands associated with Lincoln Creek and some other minor creeks that cross the selected water line route. The proposed water line will be bored in the areas denoted as wetlands in order to disturb the wetlands as minimally as possible.

The floodplain map shown in Figure 3 of this document has potentially four locations where the water line will cross. These locations will use horizontal directional drilling to complete, and will not cause any changes or effects on the identified floodplains.

The proposed water line route will be located in the County Road right-of-way. No farmland will be disturbed with the construction of the transmission main.

The following federally listed threatened and endangered species for Hamilton County are the northern long eared bat, piping plover, whooping crane, and pallid sturgeon. A preliminary review indicates that tree removal from June 1 to July 31 may adversely affect the northern long eared bat, therefore, no tree removal will be conducted during this time. The County Road right-of-way does not furnish suitable habitat for the other federally listed species. As a result, adverse effects to threatened and endangered species are not expected from the construction of the transmission main.

The proposed project was reviewed by numerous Federal and State agencies for environmental impacts. The Nebraska Department of Transportation stated that any construction equipment greater than 15 feet tall operating near the Aurora Municipal Airport would need to file a 7460-1



Form with the Department. The US Army Corps of Engineers noted the applicability of their Section 404 permit requirements if it is determined that fill material would be placed into Waters of the U.S. Typically during project design, activities can be planned to avoid fill placement, such as boring of the transmission lines.

**Financial:** An application for a DWSRF loan has been received for \$6,400,000 to fund the noted system improvements. The City is eligible for a 30-year loan at interest and administrative fee rates of 0.75%, and 28.93% forgiveness. The revenues from Hampton's water utility will be dedicated to repay the loan. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$223,800. From a review of estimated costs, it is projected that monthly water rates may need to be raised \$71.46 monthly. From current rates, the typical monthly residential water bill would increase to approximately \$107.71 per month based on 5,000 gallons of water use.

#### **Secondary:**

**Population Impacts:** The interconnection to the City of Aurora not primarily needed for future growth, but to reduce nitrate rates in the delivered water, as elevated nitrate levels have been an issue in the Village.

**Land Use and Trends:** The location of the transmission main will take place in the County Road right-of-way, and the main will be placed underground. Therefore, no changes to land use are expected from this project.

**Environmental:** The project will have no effect on the availability of water quantity in the area. The minimal amount of solid waste generated by the project will be disposed in a licensed landfill. No safety, vibration, noise or aesthetic considerations were identified other than the normal noise and disruptions associated with construction.

**Environmental Justice:** The project will not produce any environmental justice concerns. All improvements will occur in the County Road right-of-way. The services provided by the project will be available to everyone in Hampton, equally. No segment of the community's population is 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 permit for stormwater runoff associated with construction activity and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be required by NDWEE, if more than one acre of land will be disturbed. The community can designate the General Contractor as the authorized representative on the stormwater permit notice of intent submitted to the NDWEE. Authorization of stormwater 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.

#### **F.Measures Taken to Ensure Environmental Soundness:**

**Public Involvement:** A Public Hearing was held July 14, 2025 with 40 days advanced posted notice. The preliminary engineering report was presented and no public comments were received.

**Public Opposition or Opinions:** No public comments on the project were noted in the public hearing or by city officials.

**Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:**

**Facility Planning:** Village of Hampton Municipal Water System Preliminary Engineering Report, Miller & Associates, May 2024

**Federal:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, April 19, 2024, letter  
U.S. National Park Service, April 19, 2024, letter  
U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS, April 19, 2024, letter  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, April 19, 2024, letter

**State:** NE Department of Natural Resources, April 19, 2024, letter  
NE State Historical Society, April 19, 2024, letter  
NE Department of Transportation, April 19, 2024, letter  
NE Department of Environment and Energy, April 19, 2024, letter  
Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, April 19, 2024, letter  
NE State Fire Marshal, April 19, 2024, letter

**Tribal:** Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, April 19, 2024, letter  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, April 19, 2024, letter  
Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, April 19, 2024, letter

**Consulting Engineers:** Miller & Associates, Kearney, NE

**Public Groups:** Village of Hampton Residents

**G.Positive Effects to be Realized from the Proposed Project:** The project will allow Hampton to maintain compliance with the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and ensure future water availability. As such, the project is considered reasonable, not contrary to conservation or the public welfare and is a beneficial use of resources by the Village of Hampton

**H.Reasons for Concluding there will be no Significant Impacts:** Review of the facility evaluation report and its amendment, and supporting information indicates that the project will result in no significant impact on the environment. Federal and State agencies reported no impact will result to threatened and endangered species or historical resources. All necessary permits for construction will be obtained from the appropriate agencies (i.e., NDWEE, etc.), if necessary.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewing Engineer

8-21-25

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DISTRIBUTION LIST  
HAMPTON, NEBRASKA

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CONSULTING ENGINEER:

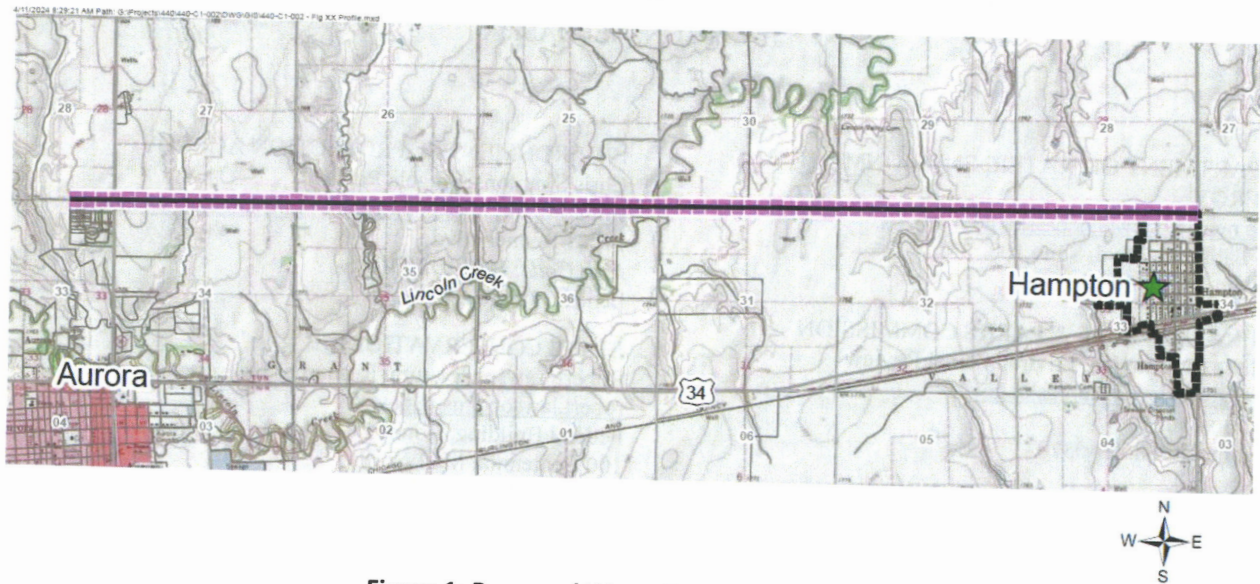
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LOCAL NEWSPAPER:

Aurora News-Register  
1320 K Street  
Aurora, NE 68818  
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT:

Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District  
[info@upperbigblue.org](mailto:info@upperbigblue.org)  
319 E. 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
York, NE 68467



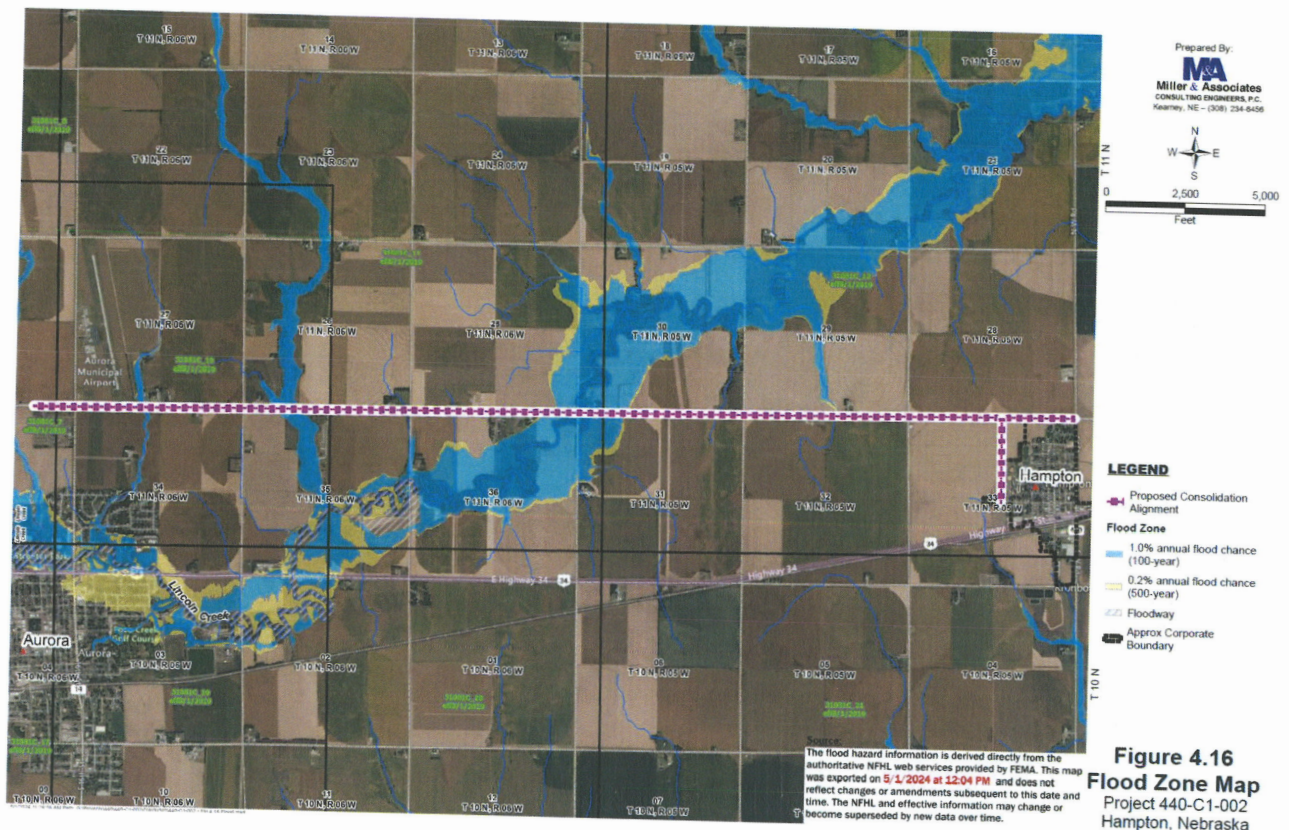
**Figure 1: Proposed Water Transmission Main**  
(From 2024 Hampton Municipal Water System Preliminary Engineering Report, Submitted by Miller & Associates, May 2024)





**Figure 2: Wetland Inventory Map**  
 (From 2024 Hampton Municipal Water System Preliminary Engineering Report, Submitted by Miller & Associates, May 2024)





**Figure 3: Flood Zone Map**  
 (From 2024 Hampton Municipal Water System Preliminary Engineering Report, Submitted by Miller & Associates, May 2024)