



K A N S A S

RODERICK L. BREMBY, SECRETARY

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

JAN 27 2004

KANSAS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN FUND PROGRAM FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO: All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with procedures for implementing the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund Act (K.S.A. 65-163d to 65-163u and K.A.R. 28-15-50 to 8-15-65, effective October 10, 1997, and the State of Kansas Environmental Review Procedure for the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Program, July 1997), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name: The City of Russell, KS
Raw Water Transmission Main
And Membrane Treatment Plant

KPWSLF Project No.
2362

Total Project Amount: \$6,200,000

Potential Loan Amount: \$6,200,000

The FFY 2004 Intended Use Plan has scheduled a low interest loan for this project. This project will provide for the construction of raw water transmission main and a membrane treatment plant for the City of Russell, Kansas.

Project Location, Purpose and Description

The City of Russell is located in central Russell County, Kansas. The construction of a raw water main and membrane treatment plant will allow the City to reduce Secondary Contaminants from its ground water and adjust surface water treatment to reduce disinfection byproducts. The raw water transmission main will be located in Sections 23, 24, and 13 of, Township 14 South, Range 15 West, Sections 7, 8, and 5 of Township 14 South, Range 14 West and Sections 33, 34, and 35 of Township 13 South, Range 14 West, of Russell County. The treatment plant will be located in Section 35 Township 13 South Range 14 West, of Russell County.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT

Bureau of Water

CURTIS STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 1000 SW JACKSON ST., STE. 420, TOPEKA, KS 66612-1367

Voice 785-296-5500 Fax 785-296.0086 <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/>

The total cost of this project is estimated at \$6,200,000. Financing under the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund Program will provide funding for the entire project at an estimated interest rate of 3.80%, which will result in semi-annual loan repayment costs of approximately \$223,000.

A public hearing was held on November 4, 2003. The hearing was opened by the Acting Council President of the City of Russell for the purpose of considering the project and application to KDHE for funds from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund. The Acting Council President presented plans for the improvements. Members of the public were permitted to make statements and ask questions of the Governing Body and the City's consultants; no public comments were recorded in the minutes of the meeting. After all were given the opportunity to speak and ask questions, the Acting President closed the public meeting. A motion that authorized proceeding with the loan application process was made and passed.

The primary environmental impacts of the project include slight noise of heavy construction equipment, minimal erosion of exposed soil, and slight alteration of existing landforms at the construction sites. The secondary impacts of the project are minimal to non-existent as population densities and land use patterns will not be affected.

The project has the potential to impact habitats of the state-threatened eastern spotted skunk, federally threatened Bald Eagle, and the Federal Candidate Species black-tailed prairie dog. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks could require permits if trees or riparian woody vegetation are removed from these habitats. Black-tailed prairie dog colonies should be avoided. The project will have no known adverse impact on sensitive ecosystems, unique environmental features, critical archeological or historic sites, parks, or air quality. A preliminary jurisdictional wetland determination should be obtained prior to construction. Proper mitigation measures necessary to eliminate unforeseeable adverse environmental effects will be implemented in cooperation with interested state and federal agencies. No relocation of residences or other buildings will be required.

Steps taken to minimize environmental impacts include implementation of erosion and sediment control measures, proper storage and disposal of construction materials, and maintaining existing services until the improvements are completed. Land, materials, fuel and other forms of energy utilized in construction and operation of the facility will be irretrievably committed to the project.

The project was coordinated with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources, Kansas Geological Survey, Kansas Water Office, Kansas Biological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, State Conservation Commission and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

After considering the project's short-term and long-term environmental effects, it was determined that any short-term adverse impacts during construction will be offset by the long-term benefits derived from the improved delivery and treatment of water. The review process did not indicate that the proposed action would adversely impact the environment. Consequently, a preliminary decision to proceed has been made and the preparation of an environmental impact statement for the project will not be required.

This action is taken on the basis of a review of the preliminary engineering report and correspondence from the consulting engineer, the project needs document, the environmental information document, the environmental assessment, and other supporting documentation. These items are available for public scrutiny upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. This agency will not take any administrative action regarding the project for at least 30 calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to this Agency during this period.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald F. Hammerschmidt", is written over a horizontal line.

Ronald F. Hammerschmidt, Director
Division of Environment

Attachments

Environmental Assessment Document
Distribution List
Map

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Project Identification:

Applicant: The City of Russell
Raw Water Transmission Main
And Membrane Treatment Plant

KPWSLF Project No.
2362

County: Russell

State: Kansas

Estimated Project Amount: \$6,200,000
Potential Loan Amount: \$6,200,000

Community Description:

Location: The City of Russell is located in central Russell County.

Current Methods of Water Treatment and Supply System: The City of Russell serves 2,424 customers including 351 commercial users for a total population of 4,567. Russell currently uses two raw water sources, surface water from Big Creek (70%) and ground water from the Smoky Hill River alluvium at Pfeifer (30%). The raw ground water and surface water are combined in the existing transmission main. The current treatment plant treats both the surface and ground water but does not remove adequate amounts of sodium, sulfate, and chloride that occur in the ground water source. The combined raw water sources complicate treatment techniques that would optimize disinfection byproduct reduction. The lime sludge waste from the treatment plant is deposited in lagoons at the drinking water plant, and the wastewater treatment plant handles discharge from those lagoons, if any.

Project Description:

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to separate the City's two water sources and treat them individually for better finished water quality and to provide for treatment of future ground water sources.

Design Factors and Type of Improvements: The raw water transmission line will be constructed parallel to the existing transmission line from the Big Creek pumping station to the new treatment facility and use existing easements. The membrane treatment plant will include a pretreatment facility and necessary piping to blend treated water from both treatment plants. The waste stream from the membrane plant will be transported to the wastewater treatment plant.

I. Alternatives Considered:

- A. **Alternatives:** The City considered two types of membrane plants and an expansion of its current lime softening plant. While the lime softening plant expansion would eliminate the need for an additional raw water transmission main and therefore have less of an environmental impact, it would not treat the ground water adequately for contaminants found in the secondary drinking water standards.
- B. **Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The selected alternative would not only treat the current ground water source to produce drinking water of an acceptable quality, but would also allow adjustments in the surface water treatment plant to reduce disinfection byproducts and would provide a the means to treat future ground water sources needed to meet current peak demand.

II. Impact Summary:

- A. **Construction:** Slight wind and water erosion of exposed soils, noise from heavy construction equipment.
- B. **Population Impacts:** No significant change in population expected. This project will enhance water quality, and although treatment capacity will be raised, the City currently does not have raw water sources to increase that capacity for new populations.
- C. **Land Use and Trend:** Land use patterns will not be impacted. The raw water line will be located within the same easements as the existing line and the treatment plant will be adjacent to the exiting plant.
- D. **Environmental:** No adverse impacts to groundwater, wetlands, parks and open space, flood plain, or prime farmland are anticipated. The construction will occur almost exclusively within or adjacent to the pre-existing water supply system.
- E. **Financial:** The public water supply system customer base is primarily residential with some commercial industries. Before a loan agreement is made, a financial capacity analysis will be performed to determine if an increase in rates is necessary to insure the City can repay the loan. The average rate increase per meter will be \$15.47 per month.
- F. **Mitigation Measures Necessary to Eliminate Adverse Environmental Effects:**
 - 1. proper grading, drainage and slope protection to eliminate erosion;
 - 2. riparian habitat will be avoided, and disturbed areas will be reseeded with native plant species, a permit may be required if riparian woody vegetation is removed;
 - 3. if any riparian trees are removed they will be replaced by pole plantings or saplings at a ratio of three plantings to each tree removed, any trees removed within the Bald Eagle critical habitat may require a permit;

4. in the event that construction work uncovers buried archeological artifacts, the Kansas Historical Society should be contacted immediately; and
5. contacting KCC in the event of unexpected circumstances are encountered during construction such as the discovery of abandoned oil, gas, or exploratory holes.

G. ***Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources:*** materials used in construction of permanent structures; fuel and other forms of energy consumed during construction.

III. Measures Taken to Ensure Environmental Soundness:

A. ***Public Involvement:*** A public hearing was held on November 4, 2003. The hearing was opened by the Acting Council President of the City of Russell for the purpose of considering the project and application to KDHE for funds from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund. The Acting Council President presented plans for the improvements. Members of the public were permitted to make statements and ask questions of the Governing Body and the City's consultants; no public comments were recorded in the minutes of the meeting. After all were given the opportunity to speak and ask questions, the Acting President closed the public meeting. A motion that authorized proceeding with the loan application process was made and passed.

B. ***Public Opposition or Opinion:*** No public comments were recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

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

1. ***Federal/Others:***

- a) U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service
- b) U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service
- c) U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

2. ***State:***

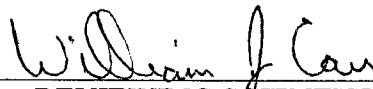
- a) Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks
- b) Kansas State Historical Society
- c) Kansas Corporation Commission
- d) Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
- e) Kansas Dept. of Agriculture/Division of Water Resources
- f) Kansas Geological Survey
- g) Kansas Water Office
- h) Kansas Biological Survey
- i) State Conservation Commission

3. ***Consulting Engineers:*** Bartlett & West. for Engineering Report

Environmental Justice: No issues have been raised regarding this project's compliance with Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice. No waste from the project activities will be discarded or deposited in the economically depressed areas or areas populated with minorities. All members of the communities served will benefit from the enhanced water quality.

VIII. Positive Environmental and Health Effects to be Realized from the Proposed Project: Improved water quality in compliance with drinking water regulations, and citizen satisfaction.

IX. Reasons for Concluding there will be no Significant Impacts: Population densities and land use patterns, historical sites of archeological significance, wetlands or other sensitive environmental areas as well as recreational opportunities and open space will not be adversely affected by this project.


REVIEWING SCIENTIST

1/16/04

DATE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks
Environmental Services Section
512 SE 25th Avenue
Pratt, KS 67124-8174

Kansas State Historical Society
State Historical Preservation Office
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66604-1099

Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Bureau of Water - Public Water Supply
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 420
Topeka, KS 66612

Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
109 SW Ninth, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283

Kansas Geological Survey
University of Kansas
1930 Constant Ave., Campus West
Lawrence, KS 66047

Ken Deason
US EPA - REGION VII
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

Kansas Water Office
901 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612-1249

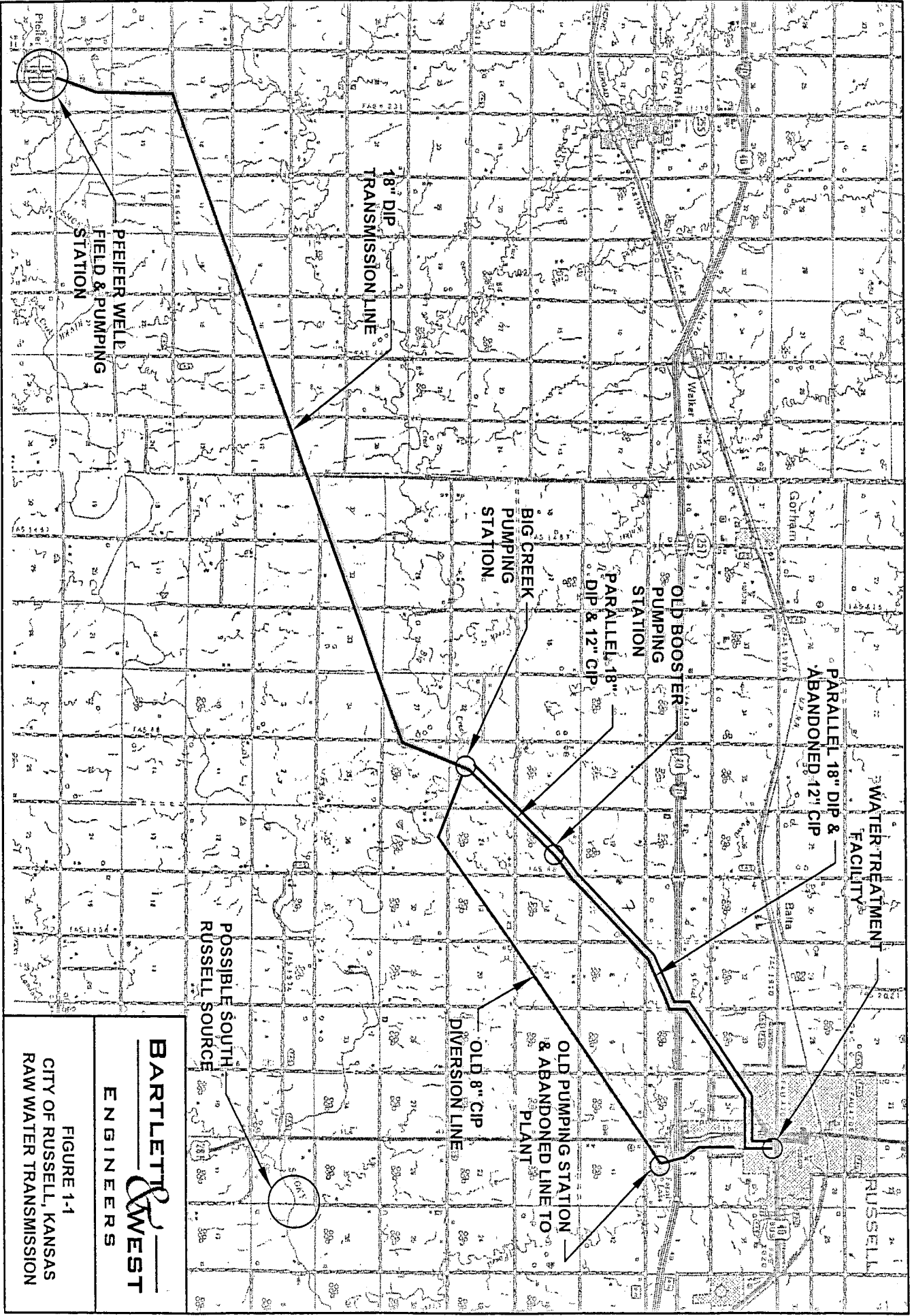
Kansas Biological Survey
University of Kansas
2041 Constant Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66047-2906

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish & Wildlife Service
315 Houston, Suite E
Manhattan, KS 66502

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 S. Broadway
Salina, KS 67401-4642

State Conservation Commission
Executive Director
109 SW 9th St., Suite 500
Topeka, KS 66612-1299

U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers
Kansas City District
700 Federal Building
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896



BARTLETT & WEST
ENGINEERS

FIGURE 1-1
CITY OF RUSSELL, KANSAS
RAW WATER TRANSMISSION