

KANSAS WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO: All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with procedures for implementing the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund Act (K.S.A. 65-3321 to 65-3329, K.A.R. 28-16-110 to 28-16-138 effective May 29, 1989 and K.A.R. 28-16-137 effective October 26, 1989, and the Kansas Environmental Review Procedure for the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Program dated February 1989), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name: Holton, Kansas SRF Project No. C20 1659 01
Wastewater Systems Upgrade and Expansion

Total Project Amount: \$5,500,000 Potential Loan Amount: \$5,500,000

The FFY 2004 Intended Use Plan scheduled a low interest Kansas Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan for this project in 2004. This project will provide improvements to the treatment facilities consisting of construction of an activated sludge wastewater treatment plant to operate in parallel with the existing lagoon system.

The City of Holton is a Class 2 City located in Jackson County in northeast Kansas. The community is presently served by a central collection system and a sewage treatment facility consisting of an aerated three cell lagoon system with an NPDES permit (No. M-KS23-0001) to discharge treated effluent to Elk Creek which subsequently flows into Banner Creek. Banner Creek ultimately flows into the Kansas River.

Project Description, Location and Purpose

The proposed project includes installation of a new fine mechanical bar screen, construction of a new lift station, an Aero-mod activated sludge system and facilities support building. The new support building will include an ultraviolet wastewater effluent disinfection facility, a belt filter press sludge dewatering system, a laboratory, restrooms, an office, the aeration blowers, electrical controls room, and maintenance/workshop.

The City of Holton currently operates a three cell aerated lagoon system located at the northeast corner of town near the confluence of Elk Creek with Banner Creek. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has advised the City the wastewater treatment facilities must be upgraded to provide consistent and adequate treatment of ammonia, and to provide adequate disinfection. The engineering report, as prepared by Professional Engineering Consultants, P.A. (Dated June 2004), outlined the improvements necessary to meet the new stricter requirements for wastewater treatment as required by the NPDES wastewater permit.

The engineering report recommended construction of an activated sludge treatment facility to be operated in parallel with the existing aerated lagoon system. The existing wastewater treatment plant includes a mechanical bar screen, lift station, three cell aerated lagoon system, blower building with three 700 CFM blowers, and an emergency generator. The existing aerated lagoon system will continue to discharge directly to Elk Creek. The new activated sludge treatment facility will discharge directly to Banner Creek. All aspects of the project are eligible for SRF loan assistance, with the exception of purchase of land and easements. The planned improvements will be located on the existing plant site. The combination of the existing aerated lagoon system and the activated sludge wastewater treatment facility is designed based on an average daily flow rate of 660,000 gallons per day with a peak hydraulic flow rate of 4,580,000 gallons per day.

The primary environmental impacts of the project include noise of heavy construction equipment, slight erosion of exposed soil, alteration of existing land forms at the construction site, a reduction of pollutants including BOD, TSS, ammonia, and bacteria in the effluent, and therefore a positive effect on both Elk Creek and Banner Creek. The secondary impacts of the project are minimal as population densities and land use patterns will not be adversely affected.

The project will have no known adverse impact on rare or endangered species, sensitive ecosystems, unique environmental features, critical archeological or historic sites, parks, wetlands, groundwater quality, open space and recreation opportunities, prime farmland or air quality. 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 new facility is placed into operation. 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Water Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Natural Resources Conservation Service, State Department of Agriculture - Division of Water Resources (DWR), State Conservation Commission, Kansas Biological Survey, Kansas Corporation Commission, and Kansas Geological Survey.

The State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) required the project site be surveyed by a professional archeologist. An archeology survey was conducted in October 2004. The SHPO subsequently reviewed the report and in a November 10, 2004 letter indicated the proposed project should have no effect on historic properties and stated no objection to implementation of the project. The Corps of Engineers indicated in a September 2, 2004 letter the project was authorized under the nationwide permit No. 7 and an individual permit was not required (tracking no. 200402036). The other agencies did not have any adverse comments or simply provided clearance for the project.

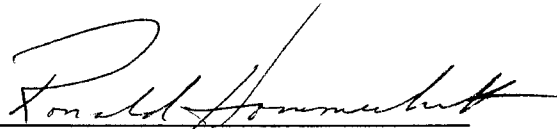
A public meeting and a public hearing for the project was held on December 6, 2004. No opposition to the project was expressed during the public meeting or hearing.

This project as proposed is estimated to cost \$5,500,000 and the City has received \$5,500,000 from the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund. A revised sewer user charge ordinance was enacted to provide adequate revenues for operation of the expanded facilities and retire the debt cost. The new sewer use charge will become effective in March 2005 and will incur a minimum \$10.73 per month for the first 1000 gallons of water use plus \$5.75 per 1000 gallons additional water use. The new sewer user fee schedule results in a \$33.73 per month charge for a typical residential connection using 5000 gallons of water per month.

After considering both short-term and long-term effects of the project on the environment, it was determined that any short-term adverse impacts during construction will be offset by the long-term benefits derived from the improved effluent quality. The review process did not indicate a significant adverse environmental impact will result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

This action is taken on the basis of review of the facility plan, the environmental information document, the environmental assessment and other supporting documentation. These are available for public scrutiny upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment document is attached. This agency will not take any administrative action on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the above date. Persons wishing to comment on this Finding of No Significant Impact may submit comments to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment during this period to the attention of Rod Geisler, Chief, Municipal Programs.

Sincerely yours,

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

Ronald F. Hammerschmidt, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Environment

Attachments

Environmental Assessment Document
Distribution List
Maps

EXHIBIT C

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

A. Project Identification:

Applicant: Holton

Project No. C20 1659 01

City: Holton

County: Jackson

State: Kansas

Total Project Amount: \$5,500,000

Potential SRF Loan: \$5,500,000

B. Community Description:

Location: Holton is located on US Highway 75 in Jackson County. This wastewater treatment plant upgrade project is located at the present treatment facility northeast of the town.

Population, Present and Projected, and Design Year: Present population within Holton is approximately 3,350. At the time of design the population was projected to increase over the next twenty years to approximately 4,300. This project will not adversely affect population growth.

Current Methods of Waste Treatment: The existing wastewater treatment plant includes a lift station, barscreen, blower building, and three cell lagoon system utilizing static tube aerators in the first two cells. The present lagoon treatment facility is rated at an average daily design flow of 0.55 million gallons per day (MGD), and cannot meet the effluent limitations of the NPDES permit at the present wastewater flow and pollutant loadings.

C. Project Description:

Purpose: The expanded wastewater treatment plant will continue to utilize the three cell lagoon system to treat a portion of the raw wastewater flow at a reduced average daily design flow of 0.132 MGD. A mechanical activated sludge wastewater treatment facility will be constructed to treat an average daily design flow of 0.528 MGD. This results in a total average daily design flow for the entire treatment facility of 0.66 MGD. The major construction items include the following:

1. The existing headworks building will be modified and a new fine mechanical screening unit will be installed.
2. A new raw wastewater lift station will be constructed.
3. A new flow splitter structure will be constructed to proportionally direct raw sewage to both the existing lagoon system and the new activated sludge treatment plant.

4. Activated sludge treatment basins will be constructed which will include biological nutrient removal basins. The aerated activated sludge basins will include coarse bubble diffusion and "ClarAator" final clarifiers.
5. A facilities support building will be constructed and will include a laboratory, office, restrooms, electrical controls room, maintenance/workshop. Additionally, this building will include areas to house the blowers which supply air for the activated sludge, the ultraviolet effluent disinfection unit, and the sludge dewatering belt filter press.
6. An effluent discharge structure will be constructed and include a parshall flume for flow measurement followed by a cascade reaeration structure.

Design Factors: The wastewater treatment plant improvements will reduce effluent BOD₅ and total suspended solids to below 10 mg/l, ammonia to below 1.0 mg/l, fecal coliform to below 200 colonies per 100 ml. and maintain pH within the 6.0 to 9.0 range.

Reserve Capacity: The wastewater treatment plant will include adequate reserve capacity to serve the presently anticipated population increase over the next 20 years.

D. Alternatives Considered:

Types: The new treatment plant facilities will utilize a mechanical treatment process. The mechanical treatment alternatives that were evaluated included concentric ring aeration with center located clarifier, "Aero-mod" activated sludge treatment facility, and "Aerotator" activated sludge treatment facility.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The selected alternative provides acceptable treatment efficiencies and meets the requirements of the NPDES permit.

E. Environmental Impact Summary:

1. Primary

- a. Construction: Noise of heavy construction equipment, and slight erosion of exposed soils can be expected.
- b. Environmental: Improved quality of the wastewater effluent discharged to Elk Creek and Banner Creek.
- c. Financial: This project as proposed is estimated to cost \$5,500,000, and is eligible for State Revolving Loan Funds. A revised sewer user charge ordinance has been enacted to fund the operation of the expanded facilities and retire the debt costs as presently estimated. New sewer rates will become effective in March 2005. The present sewer use rate charge ordinance results in a cost of \$18.00 per month

based on 5,000 gallons usage. The new rate which is effective in March 2005 will result in a sewer use charge of \$33.73 per month based on 5,000 gallons usage.

2. Secondary

- a. Population impacts: This project will not adversely impact the Holton population. A moderate population increase is anticipated over the next twenty years with an estimated population in 2025 of approximately 4300.
- b. Land Use and Trends: Continued urban and residential use of land is anticipated.
- c. Environmental: No known adverse impacts are anticipated on rare or endangered species, sensitive ecosystems, groundwater, unique environmental features, critical archeological or historic sites, parks, wetlands, or air quality.

3. Mitigation Measures Necessary to Eliminate Adverse Environmental Effect: Implementation of erosion and sediment control measures, proper storage and disposal of construction materials, and maintaining existing services until the new sewage improvements are placed into operation.

4. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources: Land, materials, fuel and other forms of energy utilized in construction will be irretrievably committed to the project.

F. Measures Taken to Insure Environmental Soundness:

- 1. Public Involvement: Public meeting and public hearing were held on December 6, 2004.
- 2. Public Opposition or Opinions: No public opposition to the project was voiced during the hearing or meeting.
- 3. Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:
 - a. Facilities Plan dated June 2004 prepared by Professional Engineering Consultants, P.A.

b. Federal/Others:

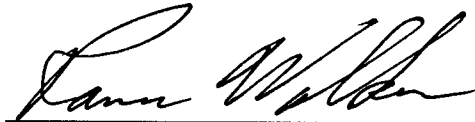
1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2. Corps of Engineers

c. State:

1. Kansas Department of Health and Environment
2. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
3. State Conservation Commission
4. Kansas State Historical Society
5. Kansas Water Office
6. Kansas Geological Survey
7. Kansas Biological Survey
8. Kansas Corporation Commission
9. Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources

G. Positive Environmental Effects to be Realized from the Proposed Project: This project will improve wastewater effluent quality discharged to Elk Creek and Banner Creek. Effluent will be disinfected and contain ammonia concentrations at less than toxic levels.

H. Reasons for Concluding There Will Be No Significant Impacts: Population densities and land use patterns will not significantly change. All construction will occur on the existing plant site. No known adverse affects are anticipated on floodplains, wetlands or other environmentally sensitive areas, no persons will have to relocate, minor temporary negative impacts of the project will be offset by the long-term benefits.

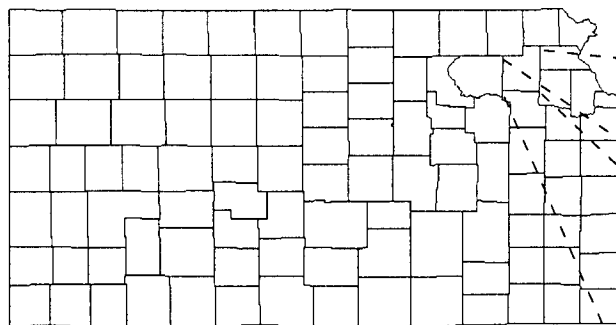


REVIEWING ENGINEER

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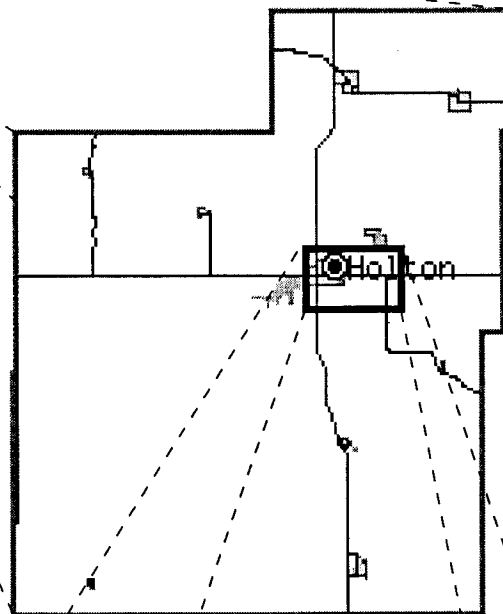
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WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE AND EXPANSION HOLTON, KANSAS

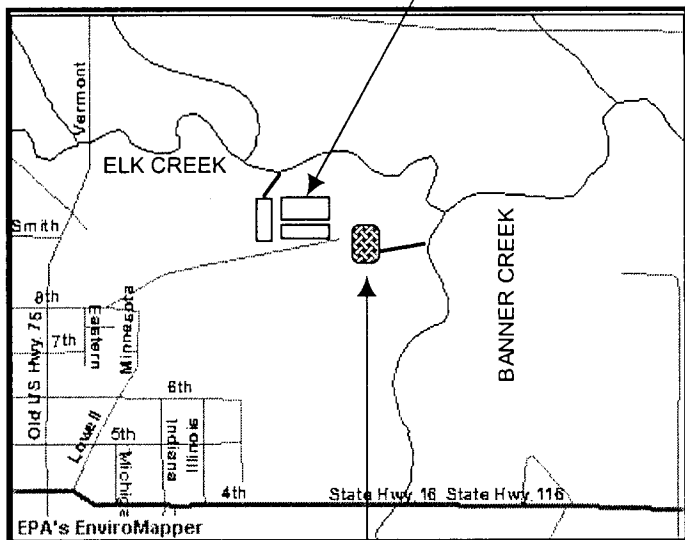


STATE OF KANSAS

JACKSON COUNTY



EXISTING LAGOON
SYSTEM



NEW MECHANICAL
TREATMENT PLANT

