



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

Environmental Assessment

Project Identification

Grantee	City of Johnston, IA
EPA Grant Amount	\$1,000,000
City of Johnston Required Match	\$200,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,200,000

Recipient Description

The City of Johnston is located in Polk County, Iowa approximately six miles southwest of Ankeny, Iowa and is bordered by Grimes to the west and Urbandale to the south. The population of Johnston is 24,064 based on 2020 Census Data and has shown a continuous growth trend throughout the past 20 years.

Johnston is a member of the Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Authority, which provides sanitary sewer services to the Greater Des Moines area. Sanitary sewer service is provided to Johnston's residents, businesses, and public facilities through more than 65 miles of collection lines and a series of lift stations. The City of Johnston has two connections to the DMWRA sewer, one located west of Merle Hay Road and one located adjacent to the old interurban (abandoned) railroad right of way. As a member of the DMWRA, the City of Johnston pays wastewater collection, operation, and maintenance costs on a proportionate basis according to annual proportional wastewater flows contributed. There are current no sanitary sewer services extending to the northern portion of Johnston annexed in 2018.

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater collection system extending municipal sanitary sewer to areas of the community which lack sewer access and are currently served only by septic systems.

The project consists of extending sanitary sewer into newly annexed areas. The primary construction method will be open trench with a few sections of boring to limit disturbances to existing infrastructure. To service the region, 13,435 LF of gravity mains with a maximum depth of 30 ft, two lift stations, and 4,600 LF of dual force mains will need to be installed. Planned construction schedule is in three segments: 2A, B, and C.

The treated wastewater from the DMWRA facility will discharge to the Des Moines River. It has a use stream designation of A-1, B(WW1). Class A-1 is designated as primary contact recreation uses and Class B(WW1) is designated for warmwater aquatic life use and for fish consumption uses.

Alternative Options

No sanitary sewers currently exist in the annexed areas of the city. The sole alternative considered was a “No Action” alternative. This was not viable due to the need to expand sewer services into the newly annexed portion of the city. The project site was selected based on land availability and minimization of environmental impacts due to project activity.

Environmental Impact Summary

A review of potential environmental impacts was conducted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and a Finding of No Significant Impacts was issued on April 7, 2023. After a further review of the background documents used to reach this determination, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined the Department of Natural Resources has adequately evaluated the impacts of the proposed action. A list of considered impacts is shown below. A full description of these impacts can be found in the original document (see enclosure).

- Construction (Long and Short Term)
- Historical/Cultural/Archaeological
- Environmental (Including wetland impacts, endangered species impact, and floodplain risks)
- Long Term Land Use
- Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources

To ensure the assessment regarding the Historical and Cultural analysis were complete, the EPA sent letters to multiple Tribal groups with potential interest in the project site soliciting comments and inviting them into a formal consultation process if necessary. These tribes were not originally contacted by the state during their Environmental Assessment process. No comments regarding concerns about the projects were received. A list of Tribes contacted is shown below:

- Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska
- Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
- Sac and Fox Nation

Measures Taken to Ensure Environmental Soundness

Actions to increase public awareness of the project were undertaken during the early stages of the project. A public hearing was held on October 17, 2022, at 7:00PM at the City’s regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Des Moines Register on September 6, 2022. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No written or oral comments were received.

Positive Environmental Effects from the Project

Positive environmental effects will be access to sanitary sewer services for the newly annexed area of the City of Johnston allowing for the proper treatment and disposal of wastewater.

Reasons for Concluding There Will Be No Significant Impact

The project will have no known adverse impact on land use, wetlands, rare or endangered species, sensitive ecosystems, parks/recreational areas, historical architectural sites, local ambient air quality, or surface water quality.

Sincerely,

Anthony Pham
Environmental Engineer
Permits and Wetlands