

Why You Should Read This: The document below 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, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.



IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

October 21, 2024

To: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups

An environmental review has been performed based on the procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed agency action below:

Applicant: City of Clarence

SRF Number: FS-16-23-DWSRF-022

County: Cedar

Iowa DNR Project Number: W2022-0706

State: Iowa

Clarence 7th Ave Water Main Project

The City of Clarence, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their drinking water infrastructure. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. The State Revolving Loan Program is a program authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

The City of Clarence is located in Cedar County, Iowa approximately 30 miles east of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and 35 miles northwest of Davenport, Iowa. The population of Clarence according to the 2020 US Census was 1,039. The design for the project is based on modest population growth consistent with what the community has experienced in recent decades.

The existing water distribution system along 7th Avenue is comprised of 4-inch cast-iron water main that runs along the west side of the road. The water main along 7th Avenue is unreliable and has exceeded its useful life, with numerous recorded historical water main breaks.

The existing water main is undersized, resulting in customer complaints with regard to residual flows and pressures during periods of high use. The existing water main is also undersized to provide service during all flow conditions.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the City's drinking water infrastructure to enhance reliability and replace deteriorated infrastructure in order to safely and reliably operate the City of Clarence's water system for the next 20 years.

The proposed project includes replacement of 2,100 linear feet of failing water main along 7th Avenue from Lombard Street to Piatt Street covering an area of approximately 4.5 acres. The new water main will be installed via open trench excavation with estimated trench dimensions being 10-ft wide by 8-ft deep. The project includes installation of water main appurtenances such as fire hydrants and replacing water services to the curb stops. Disturbed areas will remain within the existing right-of-way area. Restoration efforts include complete replacement of the roadway including pavement, curb & gutter, storm sewer, and sidewalks.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will not impact wetlands. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

The proposed project can proceed with conditions. A Memorandum of Agreement among the EPA, IDNR, SHPO, City of Clarence, and Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway was executed on October 18, 2024. Through this agreement, the City agreed to specific mitigation steps to address the impacts to the historic roadway. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

Minimum separation distances will be maintained. Noise during construction will be maintained at tolerable levels through controls on construction activities. Any construction debris will be removed from the site for proper disposal. Adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized with proper construction practices, inspection, prompt clean up and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored.

It has been determined that the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the surrounding environment. This determination is based on a careful review of the engineering report, the environmental assessment and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Natural Resources' office in Des Moines, Iowa. These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. This Department will not take any administrative action on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit

comments to the department during this period. Your comments can be sent to SRF-PC@dnr.iowa.gov or directly to me at hailey.andersen@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 321-7385.

Sincerely,

Hailey Andersen
Environmental Specialist
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): MSA Professional Services, Inc.
Jeanie Hau, Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway Coordinator
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Mindy Wells, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Chad Sands, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Alicia Vasto, Iowa Environmental Council
Michael Schmidt, Iowa Environmental Council
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority
Lee Wagner, Iowa Finance Authority
Rick Andriano, Iowa Finance Authority
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities
Jane Clark, Sierra Club
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development
Tokey Boswell, USDOT, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Ann D'Alfonso, USEPA Region VII
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII
The Sun News

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Clarence
County: Cedar
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-16-23-DWSRF-022
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2022-0706

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Clarence is located in Cedar County, Iowa approximately 30 miles east of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and 35 miles northwest of Davenport, Iowa.

Population: The population of Clarence according to the 2020 US Census was 1,039. The design for the project is based on modest population growth consistent with what the community has experienced in recent decades.

Current Distribution System: The existing water distribution system along 7th Avenue is comprised of 4-inch cast-iron water main that runs along the west side of the road. The water main along 7th Avenue is unreliable and has exceeded its useful life, with numerous recorded historical water main breaks.

The existing water main is undersized, resulting in customer complaints with regard to residual flows and pressures during periods of high use. The existing water main is also undersized to provide service during all flow conditions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the City's drinking water infrastructure to enhance reliability and replace deteriorated infrastructure in order to safely and reliably operate the City of Clarence's water system for the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed project includes replacement of 2,100 linear feet of failing water main along 7th Avenue from Lombard Street to Piatt Street covering an area of approximately 4.5 acres. The new water main will be installed via open trench excavation with estimated trench dimensions being 10-ft

wide by 8-ft deep. The project includes installation of water main appurtenances such as fire hydrants and replacing water services to the curb stops. Disturbed areas will remain within the existing right-of-way area. Restoration efforts include complete replacement of the roadway including pavement, curb & gutter, storm sewer, and sidewalks.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: The existing water main in service has deteriorated and is in need of replacement. Therefore, no alternatives were considered.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: A no action alternative is not viable due to the age and deterioration of the existing water main. The selected improvements to the existing water treatment plant were deemed the most cost-effective options. The evaluation of alternatives included capital, maintenance, and operational costs. The project site was selected for proximity to existing infrastructure as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on January 8, 2024 at 6:15PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Sun News on December 7, 2023. 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.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups: The following Federal, state and local agencies were asked to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historical Preservation Office)
- Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
- Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section
- Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe
- Flandreau Santee Sioux
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Omaha Tribal Council
- Osage Tribal Council
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Prairie Island Indian Community
Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Santee Sioux Nation
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Spirit Lake Tribal Council
Three Affiliated Tribes Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations
Upper Sioux Tribe
Winnebago Tribal Council
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee
Lincoln Highway Association
Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway – Prairie Rivers of Iowa

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public to date. Conditions placed on the applicant by the above agencies in order to assure no significant impact are included in the Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact section.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Construction: Traffic patterns within the community may be disrupted and above normal noise levels in the vicinity of the construction equipment can be anticipated during construction and should be a temporary problem. Adverse environmental impacts on noise quality will be handled by limited hours of contractor work time during the day. Other adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized by proper construction practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the construction project will be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents.

Care will be taken to maintain dirt to avoid erosion and runoff. The proposed project will disturb one or more acres of soil; therefore, the applicant is required to obtain an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) and abide by its terms. Provided that this permit is obtained and the terms of which are abided by, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Temporary air quality degradation may occur due to dust and fumes from construction equipment. The applicant shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 23.3(2)“c”).

Historical/Archaeological: Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. An historic architectural survey and evaluation of the proposed project area indicated that the impacted portion of Lincoln Highway has been deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This segment of the Lincoln Highway is therefore evaluated as eligible for listing in

the NRHP under Criteria A and C. Results from this investigation, were submitted to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) for review. The proposed project can proceed with conditions (SHPO R&C#230516490). A Memorandum of Agreement among the EPA, IDNR, SHPO, City of Clarence, and Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway was executed on October 18, 2024. Through this agreement, the City agreed to specific mitigation steps to address the impacts to the historic roadway. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

Environmental: According to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division, the proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas or open spaces. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concurs that the project will not impact wetlands. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 Technical Assistance website consultation determined, and Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree, that the project will not impact protected species or their habitats. However, if any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. According to the Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain.

No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity. Therefore, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Land Use and Trends: The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. The proposed project is within the present corporate limits of Clarence in areas zoned residential, commercial, or industrial. No significant farmlands will be impacted. This project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water/sewer infrastructure is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region. Similarly, this project is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the pattern and type of land use.

Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources: Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy will be utilized during construction

Nondiscrimination: All programs, projects, and activities undertaken by DNR in the SRF programs are subject to federal anti-discrimination laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Positive environmental effects will be maintained water quality for the citizens of Clarence. This project will improve the water distribution system, provide more reliable service to customers, and increase residual flow and pressures. A catastrophic loss of water supply could result in City-wide health impacts due to a lack of sanitation and the use of other water sources that may not meet Federal drinking water standards.

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The project will not impact wetlands.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.
- The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
- The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- The proposed project can proceed with conditions. A Memorandum of Agreement among the EPA, IDNR, SHPO, City of Clarence, and Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway was executed on October 18, 2024. Through this agreement, the City agreed to specific mitigation steps to address the impacts to the historic roadway. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.
- No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

THEREFORE:

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 44.10(3) for drinking water relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time. This Environmental Assessment Document (EAD) outlines the justification that the environmental review for the proposed project should be classified as a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) and does not rise to the significance of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with 40 CFR § 1501.5.

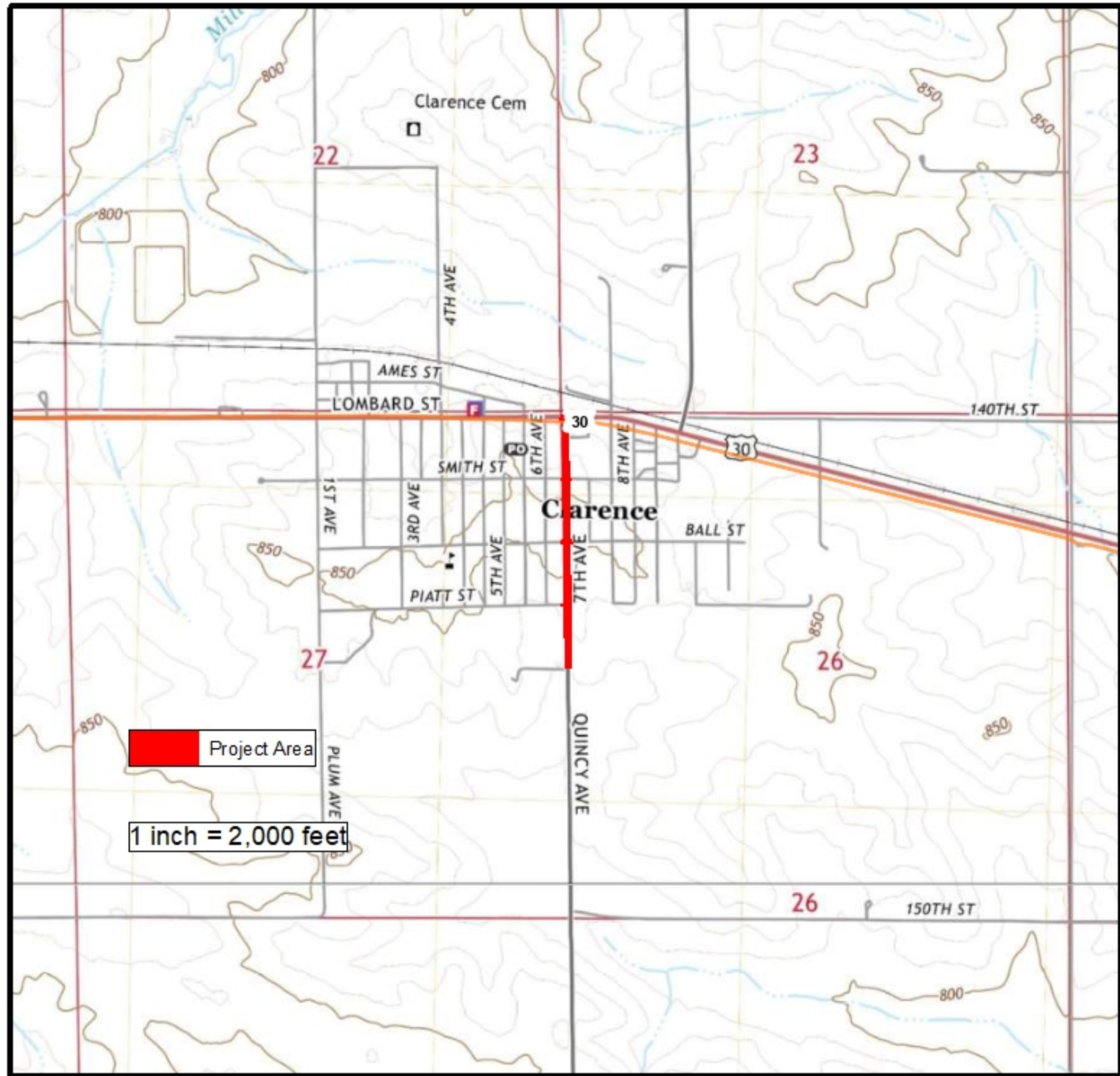
Hailey Andersen

Environmental Review Specialist
State Revolving Fund
Iowa Department of Natural Resources



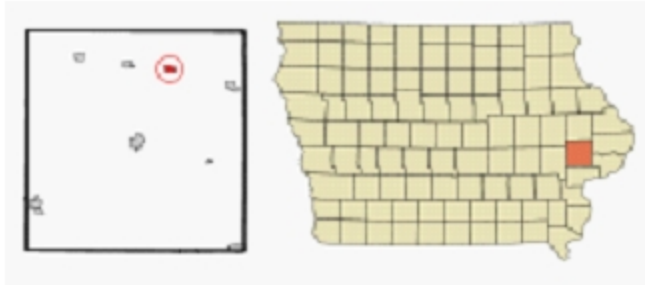
State Resolving Fund
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Clarence
Township: 82 N, Range: 2 W, Section: W of 26
Township: 82 N, Range: 2 W, Section: E of 27
Date: 1973



USGS Topographic Map

7th Avenue Water Main
Clarence, IA





Aerial Photograph

7th Avenue Water Main
Clarence, IA

0 250 500 1,000 Feet



1 inch = 500 feet

