

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
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

September 11, 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 Tiffin

SRF Number: FS-52-25-DWSRF-001

County: Johnson

Iowa DNR Project Number: W2024-0262

State: Iowa

The City of Tiffin, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their drinking water supply and treatment facilities. The City has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. SRF 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 proposed project will construct an addition to the City's existing water treatment plant to house reverse osmosis (RO) treatment equipment. The improvements include expanding the current facility and installing two RO skids to treat the current water demand and some reasonable design year growth, necessary piping, pre- and post- chemical systems, finished water pumping, a new diesel generator, and main SCADA system improvements. SCADA communication methods for Well #3 and Well #5 will be evaluated. Communications improvements at both locations includes addition of a cellular radio control panel. A transducer with a new conduit between the well and well house will be added at Well #3. A 400,000-gallon clear well will also be constructed as part of the expansion. The dimensions of the new RO building addition will be approximately 94 feet by 60 feet by 6 feet deep and the clear wet well will be about 60 feet by 100 feet by 10 feet deep. The existing ion exchange softeners and brine tank will be decommissioned as part of the project and the two existing high service pumps are proposed to be relocated to the new 400,000-gallon clear well. Iron filters will remain in service to treat blended water. The existing generator at the current facility will be relocated at Well #5 and installed on a concrete pad. Ground disturbing activities for the Well #5 site would be excavation for the concrete pad and installation of conduits from the pad to the building.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from NEPA review specified in the 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and

was determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will not be prepared.

Justification for granting categorical exclusion:

- The project as proposed is solely directed toward minor upgrading or minor expansion of system capacity, rehabilitation of the existing system and system components, or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities.
- This project will not involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water.
- This project will not result in substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water.
- The project will not serve a population 30% greater than the existing population.
- The project is not directly or indirectly involved or related to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development.
- The project is not counter to the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to conflict with federal, state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental, resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of an exclusion, the state determines that:

- The proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project; or
- New evidence reveals that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- Federal, State, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of supporting information that is on file at the Department of Natural Resources' Des Moines, Iowa office. This information is available upon request. 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 rebecca.flynnkettman@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 204-5672.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Flynn Kettman
Environmental Review Specialist
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321

Enclosure: Project Map

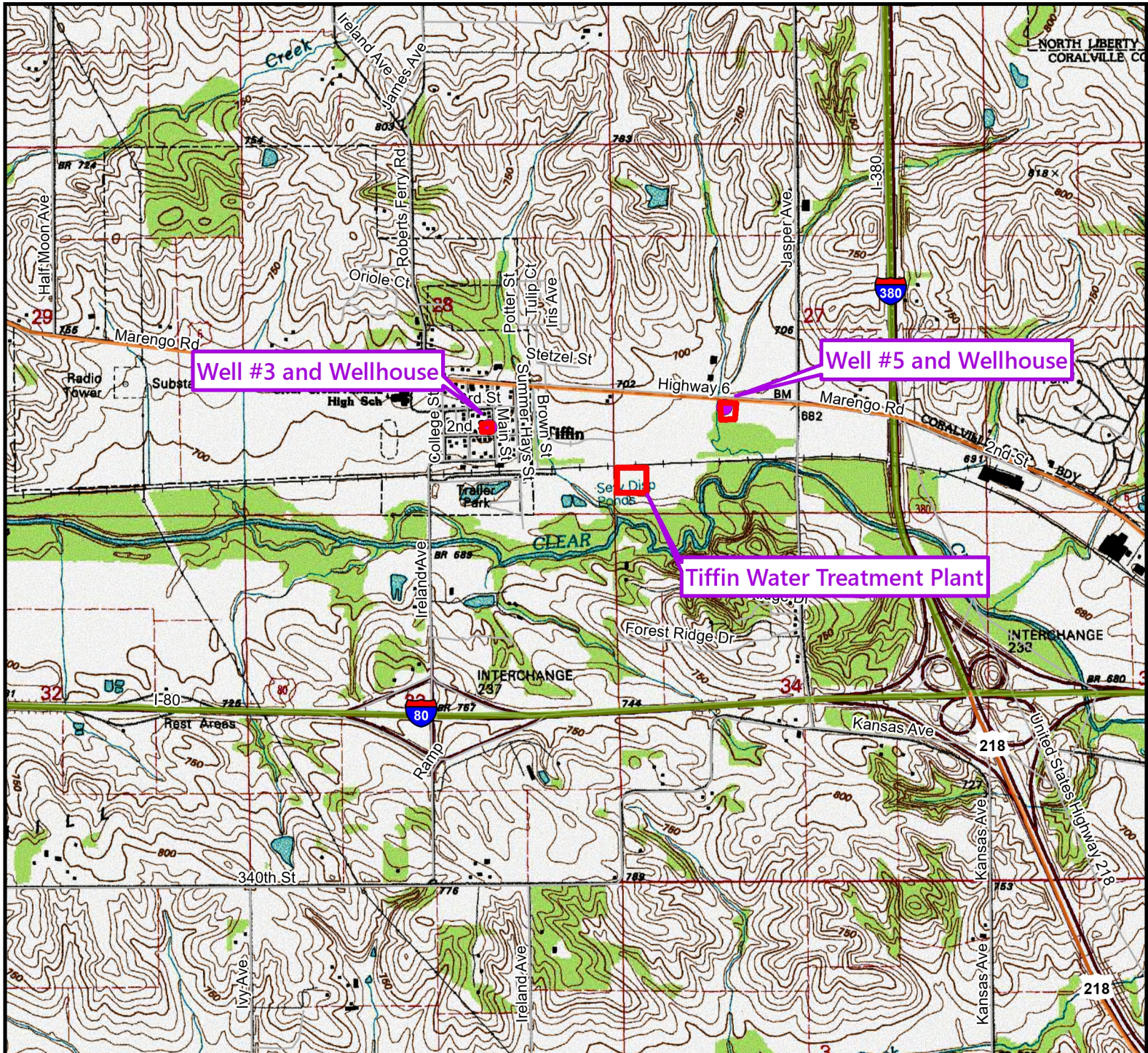
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The Gazette



STATE
REVOLVING FUND
IOWA



USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Tiffin
Sections: 27, 28, 34, Township: 80 N, Range: 07 W
Date: 1994



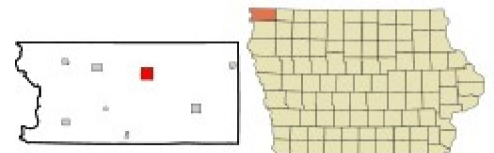
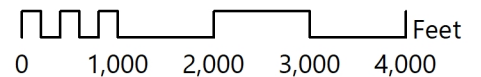
USGS Topographic Map

City of Tiffin Water Treatment Improvements
Tiffin, IA (Johnson County, Iowa)

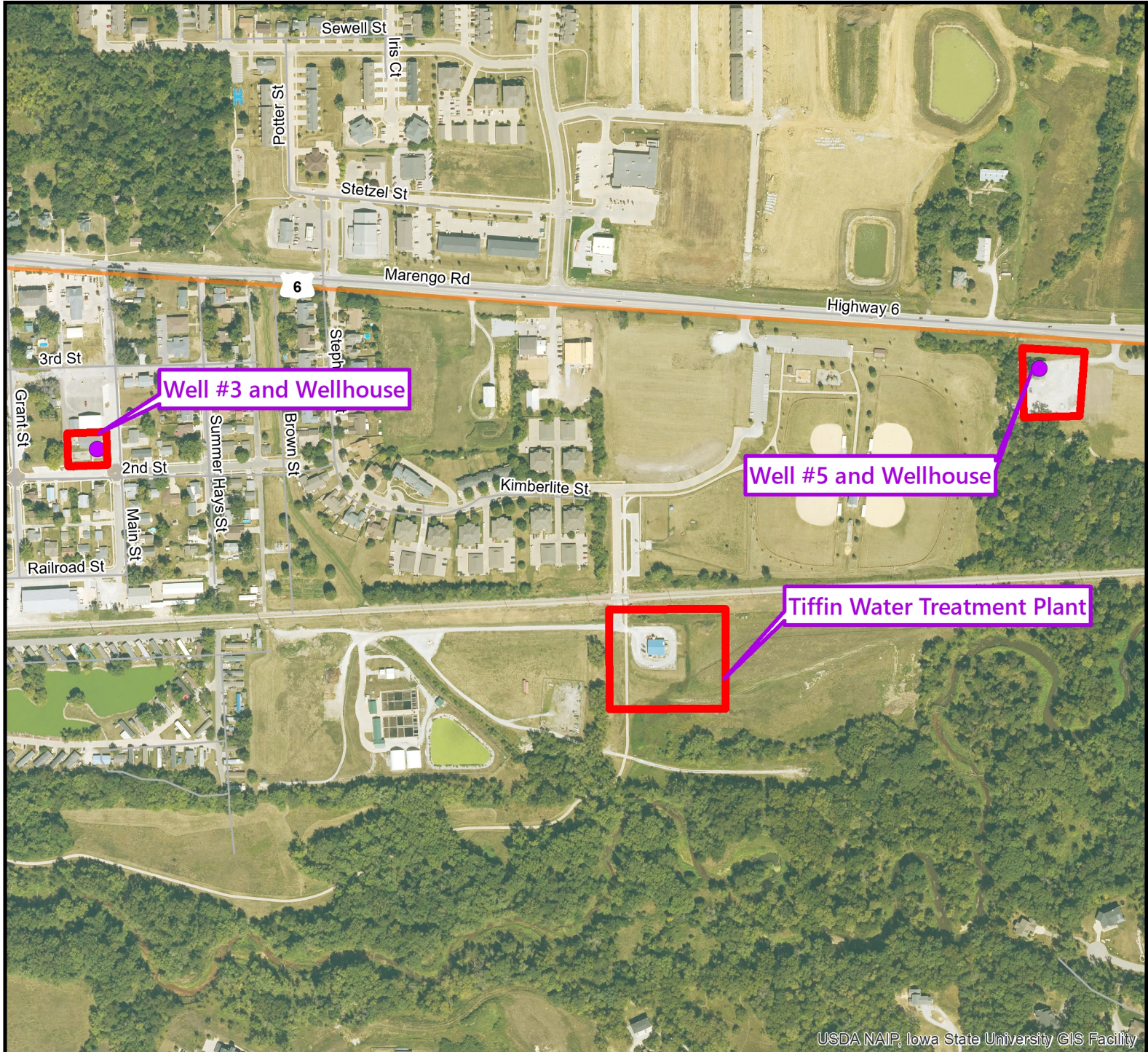
Legend

-  Project Areas with Ground Disturbance
-  SCADA Communications Improvements Locations

Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 feet





Johnson County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2024.



USDA NAIP, Iowa State University GIS Facility

City of Tiffin Water Treatment Improvements Tiffin, Iowa (Johnson County)

Legend

-  Project Area
-  SCADA Communications Improvements Locations

Scale: 1 inch = 500 feet

