

TOWN OF GARDEN CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS C461341-01

DATE MAY 6, 2026

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT
WITHIN THE TOWN OF GARDEN
CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) conducted a review of a proposal from the town of Garden City for a Wastewater System Improvements project.

The town of Garden City is proposing to replace an existing lift station and make improvements to the existing wastewater lagoon. The lift station improvements include removing the existing dry vault and installing a new pre-packaged fiberglass lift station. The lagoon improvements consist of installing new pond control structures, valves, piping, and fencing.

The town of Garden City was awarded a \$488,000 Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan with 38.4% principal forgiveness not to exceed \$187,000. The loan has a rate of 3.75 percent and a term of 30 years. Current residential sewer rates are \$35.00 per customer per month for 5,000 gallons usage. Garden City has pledged a project surcharge for repayment of the loan. A \$55.00 surcharge will provide the required 110 percent

coverage.

Listed below are the reasons for granting a categorical exclusion:

1. The project involves sanitary sewer or storm sewer within the developed portion of the community.

2. No comments requiring mitigative action were received from the South Dakota Historical Society, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, United States Department of Interior, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resource Conservation Service, or through the public participation process.

The proposed action does not involve any serious local objections, nor does it meet any of the criteria for not granting a categorical exclusion as specified in [Section 6.505(c) (i) through (iii) of 40 CFR Part 6, Subpart E].

The project area will not affect any historical or archaeological resources. The project should have no direct or indirect adverse effects on plant life or wildlife. No other environmentally sensitive issues have been identified in the planning of this project.

The review process did not indicate that significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project. Consequently, a pre-

liminary decision not to prepare an EIS has been made. This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the engineering report, environmental information documents, correspondence with responsible governmental agencies and other supporting data which are on file at the Division of Financial and Technical Assistance, Environmental Funding Program, DANR, Pierre, South Dakota, and are available for public scrutiny at the town office in Garden City, South Dakota.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to DANRMail@state.sd.us for consideration by DANR after publication of the Categorical Exclusion Determination. Categorical Exclusion determinations are final upon publication, DANR may consider comments provided if determined necessary.

Tina McFarling,
Administrator

Published once at the
approximate cost of \$41.98
and can be viewed free of charge
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5-6-26