

**Notice of Availability  
of Environmental Assessment and Finding**

The Shawnee Municipal Authority is planning to construct new treatment processes at the water treatment plant with a capacity of 10.0 mgd including process building with clarifiers and filters, new standby generator, new powdered activated carbon feed building, high service pump replacement, and electrical controls. The Shawnee Municipal Authority is funding the project through a loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are available for review by the public on the City of Shawnee's website. [www.shawneeok.org](http://www.shawneeok.org). Person(s) wishing to offer comments on the Environmental Assessment and Finding may do so by submitting comments in writing to DEQ within 30 days of this publication date, at the following address:

Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Division  
Attn: Kristi Roy  
P.O. Box 1677  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677  
Kristi.Roy@DEQ.OK.GOV

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Shawnee Municipal Authority  
Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma**



**November 30, 2020**

**Shawnee Municipal Authority  
Water System Improvements  
Estimated Total Project Amount: \$19,910,000  
DWSRF Project Number: P40-1020504-03**

### **Legal Description**

Section 19, T-10-N, R-4-E, I. M., Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma.

### **Background and Existing Conditions**

The Shawnee Municipal Authority (MA) is a public trust. The beneficiary of the trust is the City of Shawnee, Oklahoma. The Shawnee MA operates the Shawnee Water Treatment Plant (WTP) under a lease from the City of Shawnee. The WTP serves approximately 32,000 residential and commercial customers within the City of Shawnee, the Town of Meeker, and the Pottawattamie County Development Authority. The water sources are Twin Lakes I and II and the Wes Watkins Reservoir. The WTP has a rated capacity of 5.7 million gallon per day (mgd).

### **Purpose and Need**

The Shawnee WTP was constructed in 1980 and has been partially renovated three times. The proposed project is needed due to past growth, and the age of certain components at the WTP.

### **Proposed Project**

The proposed project is to construct new treatment processes with a capacity of 10.0 mgd. A new process building to be constructed on the site of the old settling basin. The existing rapid mix, clarifiers and filters will be abandoned.

The proposed project includes the addition and updates to:

- Rapid Mix
- 4 Pulsating Clarifiers w/Tube Settlers
- 8 Declining Rate Filters
- Replacement of 3 High Service Pumps
- Powdered Activated Carbon Feeder and Building
- Site Piping
- Electrical
- SCADA System
- Demolition of Clarifiers and Abandoned Structures
- Generator
- Related appurtenances

All proposed treatment improvements will be made within the boundary of the existing WTP property. There are no significant environmental resources present on the existing site, nor are there any wetlands, critical habitat, prime farmland, historical sites or cultural resources known to exist on the project site.

### **Proposed Funding**

This project will be funded through the DWSRF loan program. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) will complete a managerial and financial review that provides assurances the loan can be repaid and the funds are sufficient for proper operation of the system. DEQ will complete a technical review to ensure the system meets current standards. Project cost estimates are as follows:

**SHAWNEE WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT BUDGET**

New Processes, as listed above	\$15,440,000
Generator and Associated Electrical	\$750,000
Replace Three High Service Pumps	\$550,000
<b>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>\$16,740,000</b>
Engineering	\$1,030,000
Inspection	\$300,000
Administration and Legal	\$200,000
Contingencies	\$1,630,000
Permitting	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$19,910,000</b>

**Alternatives Considered**

**1. Alternative No. 1 – Do Nothing**

This alternative would not expand the capacity of the plant, which is needed for past growth. This alternative is not acceptable and will not be further considered.

**2. Alternative No. 2 – Expand Existing Facilities**

This alternative would expand the capacity of the plant to 10.0 mgd, using the existing clarification and filter processes. The following would be included in the alternative:

- New Rapid Mix
- Add 3rd Covered Upflow Clarifier
- Replace Chemical Lines
- Filter Rehab and Filter Building Rehab
- New Backwash Pump Station
- SCADA Upgrade
- Filter Rehab and Valve Automation
- Backwash Pump Station
- Demolition of Abandoned Structures
- Clarifier No. 1 and 2 Rehab
- Four (4) New Filters and Filter Building Expansion

### **3. Alternative No. 3 – New Process Building-Selected Alternative**

This alternative would construct a new process building on the site of the old settling basin with a capacity of 10.0 mgd. The existing rapid mix, clarifiers and filters will be abandoned.

The improvements will include:

- New Rapid Mix
- 4 Pulsating Clarifiers w/Tube Settlers
- 8 Declining Rate Filters
- Replacement of 3 High Service Pumps
- Powdered Activated Carbon Feeder and Building
- Site Piping
- Electrical
- SCADA System
- Demolition of Clarifiers and Abandoned Structures
- Generator
- Related appurtenances

The project is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in the spring of 2021. The proposed project is considered cost-effective.

#### **Impacts and Environmental Considerations**

There are short term environmental impacts associated with this option, such as storm water runoff issues, solid waste generated by equipment and materials packaging being windblown, mud and debris tracked off-site by the contractor, and dust and noise. These short term impacts are negligible and can be mitigated through good construction practices.

There are no national or state parks, or any wildlife or conservation areas in the service area; tourism is expected to be unaffected by this project. There are no scenic rivers in Pottawatomie County.

If historical artifacts are found during construction, construction will be stopped and the State Historical Preservation Officer will be contacted. No disproportionate impact to low income or minority communities is anticipated.

This project is not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species and will not affect prime farmland, forestland, rangeland, or wetlands. The proposed project is on previously disturbed land that is owned by Shawnee MA, and kept mowed at 8-inches or less.

**U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service** did not comment. An on-line consultation was completed on May 1, 2020, and sent to the Service. The following table was completed as part of the on-line consultation.

**Species Conclusions Table:**

<b>Species / Resource Name</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>ESA Section 7</b>	<b>Notes / Documentation</b>
Least Tern	No potential habitat present	No effect	No salt flats, river sandbars, or reservoir beaches occur within or near the action area.
Piping Plover	No potential habitat present	No effect	No salt flats, river sandbars, or reservoir beaches occur within or near the action area.
Red Knot	No potential habitat present	No effect	No salt flats, river sandbars, or reservoir beaches occur within or near the action area.
Whooping Crane	No potential habitat present	No effect	No salt flats, river sandbars, or reservoir beaches occur within or near the action area.
American Burying Beetle	Potential habitat present	No effect	All construction will take place on existing WTP site. The proposed project is on previously disturbed land that is kept mowed at 8-inches or less.

**Coordination of Review**

The required coordination of review was completed and the comments received are summarized below:

1. The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Branch** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
2. The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regulatory Branch** commented, “We have examined the property and concluded that the referenced property contains no jurisdictional wetlands or other waters of waters of the United States subject to Section 404 of the CWA. Therefore, your proposal is not subject to regulation pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and a Department of the Army (DA) permit will not be required. Should your method of construction necessitate such a discharge into an aquatic area or tributary stream, we suggest that you resubmit that portion of your project so that we may determine whether an individual DA permit will be required.”
3. The **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service**, commented, “Per your request, we have reviewed the subject project information and determined that the proposed project will not impact any easements, watersheds or prime farmland soils as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act.”
4. The **Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)** commented, “We have received and reviewed the documentation submitted on the referenced project in Pottawatomie County. Additionally, we have examined the information contained in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI) files and other materials on historic resources available

in our office. We find that there are no known historic properties affected within the referenced project's area of potential effect." This project was assigned file number 1503-20.

5. The **Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS)** commented, "The location of your project has been crosschecked with the state site files containing approximately 26,000 archaeological sites, which are currently recorded for the state of Oklahoma. No sites are listed as occurring within your project area, and based on the topographic and hydrological setting of your project area, no archaeological materials are likely to be encountered. Thus, an archaeological field inspection is not considered necessary. Please contact this office at (405) 325-7211 if buried archaeological materials such as chipped stones, tools, pottery, bone, historic crockery, glass, metal items or building materials are exposed during construction activities."
6. The **National Park Service** was contacted commented, "The NPS has reviewed these projects and has no comments at this time."
7. The **Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department**, commented, was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
8. The **Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Planning & Management Division** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
9. The **Local Floodplain Administrator for the city of Shawnee, Oklahoma**, Rebecca Blaine, commented, "As a Certified Floodplain Manager and the Floodplain Administrator for the City of Shawnee, it is my understanding that the expansion area of this project is completely located within Zone X, which is an area of minimal flood hazard. No additional flood proofing or elevation measures will be required on this site."
10. The **Federal Emergency Management Agency** commented, "We would request that the Community Floodplain Manger be contacted for the review and possible permit requirements for this project. If federally funded, we would request project to be in compliance with EO11988 and EO 11990.
11. The **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality** commented, "In response to your request, we have completed a general environmental review for the project below.

While no adverse environmental impacts under DEQ jurisdiction are anticipated, please be aware of the following regulatory requirements.

1. Prior to beginning any construction activity disturbing more than one acre, you must submit an NOI and obtain authorization under OKR10, construction stormwater. If you need assistance, please contact DEQ's Stormwater Unit at (405) 702-6100.
2. Water and wastewater infrastructure projects that will require a construction permit from DEQ's Water Quality Division include the following:
  - Construction of new water and wastewater treatment facilities;
  - Modifications of upgrades to existing facilities;

- Construction of new water distribution and wastewater collection lines;
  - Relocation of existing water distribution and wastewater collection lines.”
12. The **U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Environmental, and Cultural Resources Management** commented, “A review of maps of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Southern Plains Region indicates that there are tribal or individual Indian trust lands in the near vicinity of the proposed improvements area. However, a review of the site map that was provided by or firm indicates that trust land will not be impacted by construction. The Southern Plains Region has no concerns that the proposed project will impact Indian trust lands within the Southern Plains Regions’ jurisdiction.”
  13. The **Cherokee Nation Historic Preservation Office** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
  14. The **Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
  15. The **Indian Nations Council of Governments** commented, “The water plant expansion is out of INCOG’s service area, so INCOG has no comments for this project.”
  16. The **Muskogee Nation** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
  17. The **Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
  18. The **Thlopthlocco Tribal Town** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
  19. The **Kialegee Tribal Town** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
  20. The **United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.
  21. The **Delaware Tribe of Indians** was contacted by Certified Mail Return Receipt, but did not comment.

### **Public Participation & Responsiveness Summary**

Any subsequent DWSRF loan will be conditioned to read that if any listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species, or archeological materials are discovered during construction, work will cease immediately and the DEQ will be notified. The DEQ will then proceed in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR, Part 800) prior to taking any action which would affect a cultural resource.

A public hearing was held on October 15, 2020 to discuss the proposed improvements to Shawnee MA. There were no comments and no objections to the project during the public hearing. Additionally, no written comments were received from the public.

### **Documentation, Coordination and Public Participation**

Coordination with appropriate federal and state agencies is complete. A Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Shawnee News-Star* paper on September 13, 2020, to make the Environmental Information Document (EID) and Engineering Report (ER) available for public review.

Additionally, Shawnee MA on a motion and vote accepted the EID and ER and certified that the public hearing held on October 15, 2020, was in accordance with the public notice of the hearing. A resolution adopting the EID and the ER for the proposed improvements was passed by Shawnee MA on October 19, 2020.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that a preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) be issued for the proposed project for public participation. However, should subsequent information be presented which shows that the proposed actions would have significant adverse impacts on environmental or cultural resources in the area, the preliminary FNSI may be revoked or amended as required.

### **References**

Environmental Information Document prepared by Holloway, Updike, and Bellen, Consulting Engineers, Inc., May 2020.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Least\\_Tern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Least_Tern)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piping\\_Plover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piping_Plover)

[http://www.fws.gov/northeast/redknot/pdf/Redknot\\_BWfactsheet092013.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/redknot/pdf/Redknot_BWfactsheet092013.pdf)

<https://www.savingcranes.org/species-field-guide/whooping-crane/>

[https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlifemgmt/endangered/burying\\_beetle.htm](https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlifemgmt/endangered/burying_beetle.htm)

<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>