
US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Assessment: Evaluation of Easement Administration Action on a Wetland Reserve Easement (Easement 666114040087F/66-6114-4-4732) Associated with Project L-(C-9)—73-45, 25th Street over Upper Iowa Bridge, Chester Township, Howard County, Iowa

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102[2][c] of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations [40 CFR Part 1500], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations [7 CFR Part 650], NRCS gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for modification of WRE #666114040087F in Howard County, IA. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is adopting an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by EOR on behalf of Howard County.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Single copies of the EA may be obtained by contacting John Paulin, Easement Restoration, Monitoring & Management Specialist, USDA-NRCS, 210 Walnut, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, IA 50309-2180, 515-323-2237. A hard copy of the EA can be viewed at the Howard County USDA-NRCS field office, 311 7th St. SW, Cresco, IA 52136. The EA can also be viewed at the following web address:

[News | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

Written comments on the EA/FONSI should be submitted to John Paulin within 30 days of the date below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 18, 2024

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional or national impacts on the environment. In addition, NRCS finds that the modification of the WRE easement will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, particularly when focusing on the special environmental concerns identified in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, NRCS has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with NEPA, as amended, and gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared.

The sponsoring local organization, Howard County, agrees with carrying forward the proposed project. The project purpose is to subordinate rights to a small portion of the USDA-NRCS WRE conservation easement for additional right-of-way acquisition allowing for replacement of the 25th Street Bridge. In return, Howard County agrees to restore additional wetlands within the existing easement area of greater economic and conservation value to the United States.

This notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact has been forwarded to the appropriate State and Federal agencies and interested parties.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposed action will be taken until 30 days after the date of this notice.

Dated: September 18, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hubbert", written in a cursive style.

Jon Hubbert

State Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service