

567—44.9(455B) Department initial approval of projects.

44.9(1) *Project initiation conference.* The department may require the applicant or the applicant's representative to meet at a location designated by the department.

44.9(2) *Required project information.* An applicant seeking financial assistance from the DWSRF for a construction project must provide the following information to the director for review and approval:

a. Plans and specifications must be signed by a professional engineer holding current license to practice in Iowa.

b. Plans and specifications must be consistent with the project identified in the application submitted pursuant to subrule 44.7(5).

c. The planned project must be described in full, and the construction requirements necessary to complete the project as proposed must be detailed.

d. The project submittal shall include the latest engineering cost estimate for the project.

e. The plans and specifications shall comply with all applicable state statutes, rules, and design standards.

f. Those portions of projects not meeting eligibility requirements may be excluded from the funded project, but included in the submitted plans and specifications if the applicant chooses to keep the loan-ineligible part of the project as part of the overall system improvement. Ineligible portions of projects include but are not limited to dams, water rights, monitoring costs, operation and maintenance expenses, projects designed primarily in anticipation of speculative growth, and projects needed primarily for fire protection.

g. The applicant has demonstrated its ability to provide the necessary legal, institutional, managerial, and financial capability to complete the project.

44.9(3) *Department review.* An applicant seeking financial assistance from the DWSRF for any project appearing on the project priority list must submit information as required under subrule 44.7(5) on forms provided by and acceptable to the department. Departmental review requirements shall consist of the following:

a. Upon review and approval of construction projects submitted as required under subrule 44.7(5), and the plans and specifications as required under subrule 44.9(2), and following a determination that the project meets the applicable requirements of the SDWA, federal regulations, Iowa statutes, and relevant portions of this chapter, the director shall approve the project in writing.

b. If there is an alteration (change order) to a project after the director approves the project, the eligible applicant must request in writing from the department an amended approval. The director shall review the request and proposed project alteration (change order) and, upon a determination that the project meets the applicable requirements of the SDWA, federal regulations, the August 7, 2000, Drinking Water State Revolving Funds: Interim Final Rule (40 CFR Part 35, Subpart L), program guidance, Iowa statutes, and relevant portions of this chapter, the director shall approve the project as amended.

c. If the project is not approved, the director shall notify the applicant in writing of the reason for disapproval.