

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvement
City of Thomaston, Georgia
WSID# GA2930000
DWSRF Loan# 15-022

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above subject project in accordance with the State's Environmental Review Process (SERP) for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) projects. The EPD has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, the EPD is exempting the project from further substantive environmental review requirements under Georgia's SERP.

The proposed project includes replacement of existing leaky water mains within the Southwest Silver town Village. The City will also install new hydrants, valves, service lines, backflow prevention and meters. The proposed project will include installation of approximately 3.5 miles of water mains ranging in size from 6 to 16 inches. The proposed project will also include installation of approximately 1,360 residential meters and 29 larger meters to encourage water conservation and reduce water loss. Backflow preventers will also be installed at each service, where one is not currently installed.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP:

- All water mains, valves, hydrants and appurtenances are being installed to replace existing facilities.
- All new facilities will be placed within existing rights-of way for street or utilities.
- The existing service area will not change as result of this project.
- No new customer will be served by this project.
- There will be no change in existing land use as a result of this project.

Furthermore:

- The project will not require issuance of a new or modification of an existing ground water or surface water withdrawal permit;
- The project is not known or expected to have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment, either individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local or private actions;
- The project is not known or expected to directly or indirectly have a significant adverse effect on: cultural resource areas, such as archaeological and historic sites; habitats of endangered or threatened species; or environmentally important natural resource areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands or aquifer recharge areas; and
- The action is cost-effective and is not expected to cause significant public controversy.

This determination shall become effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD and can be revoked if significant adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public scrutiny upon request. A copy of the proposed project documentation is also available for review at the City of Thomaston City Hall Georgia Government.


All interested agencies, groups and persons supporting or disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments, within thirty (30) days of the publish date of this notice to:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Rais Khan, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Permitting & Engineering Unit
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1362 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

After evaluating the comments received, EPD will make a final decision regarding approval of the project planning documents. No administrative action will be taken on the project for thirty (30) calendar days after publication of this Notice in a local newspaper that serves the Upson County area.

Publish Date:

11-24-2015


Kirk Chase, Program Manager I
Watershed Protection Branch
Georgia Environmental Protection Division