

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1456, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Judson H. Turner, Director
(404) 656-4713

November 24, 2015

Ms. Corinne Valentine, P.E., Project Engineer
303 Swanson Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

RE: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
City of Hiawassee, (WSID# GA2410000)
Towns County, Georgia
DWSRF 15-031

Dear Ms. Valentine:

Enclosed is the Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements project for the City of Hiawassee. Projects for which the Drinking Water Permitting & Engineering Program of the Environmental Protection Division determines a Categorical Exclusion (CE) is appropriate shall have that decision subject to public review.

The City of Hiawassee shall publish a notice of the determination of eligibility in a local newspaper of community-wide circulation and indicate the availability of the supporting documents for public inspection. The City shall provide a copy of the newspaper to verify public notification.

The State shall make the documents available to the public and place the notice on EPD's web site for a thirty-day comment period. If any significant comments are raised concerning negative environmental consequences from the proposed project, the City shall be required to prepare an Environmental Information document (EID) and the State shall conduct a full environmental review in accordance with the State Environmental Review Process.

If you have any questions, please contact this office at (404) 651-5153.

Sincerely,



Lynn C. Ellis
Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Permitting & Engineering Program

Enclosure

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

City of Hiawassee
City of Hiawassee (WSID# GA2810000)
Towns County, Georgia
DWSRF 15-031

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 DWSRF project will include replacing the City of Hiawassee's existing water meters for 1500 customers with wireless automatic smart meter reading system. This will provide improved water quality for the City of Hiawassee.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Replacement of existing waterlines and treatment improvements to serve customers. 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: or threatened species; or environmentally important natural resource areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands or aquifer recharge areas; and cultural resource areas, such as archaeological and historic sites; habitats of endangered
- 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 Hall in Hiawassee, Georgia.

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
Lynn C. Ellis, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering Program
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 Hiawassee area.

Publish Date: _____


Kirk Chase, Program Manager
Watershed Projection Branch Permitting Unit
Georgia Environmental Protection Division