

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
Water Meter Replacement Project
City of Cornelia Water System (WSID# 1370003)
Habersham County, Georgia
DWSRF Loan # 15024

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 consists of replacing the City's existing water meters with new automated meter reading (AMR) meters. The DWSRF project will provide the City of Cornelia's Water System and its customers with numerous environmental and financial benefits.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Installation of new or replacement of existing backflow prevention devices and/or meters at existing customers service connections; replacement of existing water lines, valves, hydrants and appurtenances in existing rights of-way for streets or utilities to serve existing customers; and improvements to existing surface or ground water treatment plants, including improvements to enhance security, which do not add a significant change in treatment capacity; 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 Hall in Cornelia, 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
Brett Blackwelder, 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 City or Summerville area.

Publish Date: _____


Kirk Chase, Program Manager I
Drinking Water Program
Georgia Environmental Protection Division