

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**  
Water System Improvements Project  
Ellijay-Gilmer County Water and Sewer Authority (WSID# 1230000)  
Gilmer County, Georgia  
**DWSRF Loan # DW201649**

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 construction of two new ground storage tanks including all related waterlines and appurtenances to replace two existing storage tanks. The project also includes upgrading the existing booster pump station. The DWSRF project will provide the Ellijay-Gilmer County Water and Sewer Authority's Water System and its customers with numerous environmental and financial benefits including increased efficiency and reliability.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Replacement of existing water lines, valves, hydrants and appurtenances in existing right-of-way for streets or utilities to serve existing customers. Construction of new water lines, valves, hydrants and appurtenances in previously disturbed areas within ½ mile of the existing distribution system and storage facilities for purpose of system reliability, both serving primarily residential or commercial uses; and land acquisition that is integral to the project and is needed to meet or maintain compliance to further public health protection and is necessary to locate eligible treatment or distribution projects. 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.

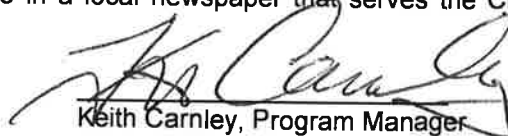
This determination shall become effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD and can be revoked if significant adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public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

Publish Date: 2/9/17

  
Keith Carnley, Program Manager  
Drinking Water Program  
Watershed Protection Branch  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division