

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvements
City of McRae-Helena (WSID# GA2710003)
Telfair County, Georgia
DWSRF2016018

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 proposes to construct the improvement to connect the previously separate water system of McRae and Helena and meet the needs of present and future customers.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: 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 existing residential or commercial users. 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 McRae-Helena, Georgia.

Additionally, as recommended by the Department of the Army Savannah District Corps of Engineer, "to avoid any potential violations at the site, we recommend hiring an experienced environmental consultant to evaluate the property for the presence of jurisdictional waters and wetlands, prior to performing any work at the site."

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 McRae-Helena area.

Publish Date: 9/28/16



Keith Carnley, Program Manager
Drinking Water
Georgia Environmental Protection Division