

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
Water System Improvement/Heard County Water Authority
WSID # GA149000 DWSRF Loan # DW2016031

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above subject project's planning document 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 consists of Heard County Water Treatment Plant Improvement and includes but not limited to: structural repairs and corrosion protection of the existing steel tankage; replacement of the tube settlers within the Aquarius plant; replacement of the media in the adsorption clarifier (Trident) and the filters (Aquarius); replacement of controls, control panel, and electrical panel within the Aquarius plant; and replacement of piping & valves throughout both plants.

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

All work will be done on Heard County Water Treatment Authority (WTP) land and will not disturb any area not previously disturbed when WTP was constructed. The existing service area will not change as a result of this project. Also no new customer will be served by 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 Heard County Water Authority office/building.

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 Hard County Area.

Publish Date: 11-10-2016



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