



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Jeffrey W. Cown, Director**

**EPD Director's Office**

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Suite 1456, East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-656-4713

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Solids Handling Upgrades  
City of Baldwin (Habersham County)  
ARC Grant No. GA-22565-2025  
GEFA Grant No. GF-2025-020

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above project in accordance with the State's Environmental Review Process (SERP). EPD has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, no further environmental review is planned. The proposed project consists of the replacement of the existing belt press with a new screw press and the construction of a permanent building to house the new press. All construction will be located on City-owned property and/or existing right-of-ways. The project will not be located in the 100-year floodplain as indicated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the SERP: functional replacement of equipment. Furthermore: the project will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters; the project will not substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants; the project will not provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; the project will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment; the action will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, habitats of endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resource areas; and the action is cost-effective and should cause no significant public controversy.

This determination is effective immediately. This exclusion may be revoked at any time if: 1) the project is altered and no longer meets the requirements of a categorical exclusion, 2) new evidence shows that serious environmental issues exist, or 3) a local, State or Federal law is being or may be violated. The information which supports this decision can be viewed online via the Georgia EPD Online System (GEOS) at [https://geos.epd.georgia.gov/GA/GEOS/Public/Client/GA\\_GEOS/Public/Pages/PublicApplicationList.aspx](https://geos.epd.georgia.gov/GA/GEOS/Public/Client/GA_GEOS/Public/Pages/PublicApplicationList.aspx) and is available for public review upon request with the Georgia EPD.

If you have any questions about this determination, please contact Ethan Rhine of my staff at [ethan.rhine@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:ethan.rhine@dnr.ga.gov) or (678) 672-6037.

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*Jeffrey W. Cown*

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Environmental Protection Division

City of Baldwin  
Wastewater Treatment Plant Solids Handling Improvements  
Site Location Map

Coordinates: 34.506020, -83.569017

13 January 2026

