

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
Water Distribution system and Water Treatment Plant Improvements
City of Jasper
Pickens County, Georgia
DW2024004

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 project includes changes to valving configuration and various watermains throughout the distribution system. The project also includes but is not limited to filter component repair and filter media replacement, filter basin concrete restoration, control valve replacement and automation, SCADA installation and implementation, electrical repairs and upgrades, building structural repair, upgrades to chemical containment and storage, reservoir gangway repairs, turbidimeter replacement, lighting improvements, and site security improvements.

This project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Improvements to existing surface or ground water treatment plants, including improvements to enhance security, which do not add a significant change in treatment capacity. Replacement of existing water lines, valves, hydrants and appurtenances in existing rights-of-way for streets or utilities to serve existing customers, as well as, modest growth (less than 10%) within the existing service area resulting in no change in existing land use; 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 species;
- 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 Jasper, 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
ATTN: Asmita Patel, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1470A East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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 Jasper area.



Publish Date: 3/4/2024

Manny Patel, Program Manager
Drinking Water Program
Georgia Environmental Protection Division