

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvements
Gray
Jones County, Georgia
WSID# 1690000ECDW2024004

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 involves a pilot study to evaluate multiple PFAS removal technologies to determine which technology best suits the city's needs. The study will evaluate GAC fluoro-sorb & ion exchange technologies over a 2-month period of time. In order to perform this pilot study, several structures will need to be temporarily installed within the Gray Water Treatment Plant property, including the installation of a 6" or 8" drain to take pilot study backwash and treated water to the onsite underflow pump station, a small pump on the sedimentation basins top slab right ahead of the existing filters to provide water from sedimentation basins to pilot skids, and pilot units, all of which will be removed upon completion of the study.

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. 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 EPD 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 Gray, 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: Johann Phan, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1052 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 Gray area.



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