

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvements
City of Waleska
Cherokee County, Georgia, WSID# 0570024
ARPA SFRF Grant# GA-0010586

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 will include replacing approximately 8,000 linear feet of old and deteriorating 6-inch asbestos cement water lines installed along Highway 108, Bartow Street, Lee Street and Byars Street. The city also needs to replace approximately 60 existing deteriorating service connections.

This project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion because it meets the following criteria, outlined in the DWSRF: 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 Waleska, 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: Disha Thakkar, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1470a 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's Area.



Publish Date: 7/12/2023

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