

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Dekalb County Water Infrastructure Improvements

Dekalb County Water System (WSID#0890001)

Dekalb County, Georgia

DWSRF#2020036

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 Briarcliff area water main improvements, Reindeer Drive water main replacement, and construction of Buford Highway water main from Afton Lane to Claremont Road. Dekalb County plans to replace approximately eight (8) miles of existing 60-100-year-old water mains in the Briarcliff Road/North Decatur Road area of Dekalb County. Proposed improvements provide increased capacity with new 8-inch, 12-inch, and 16-inch ductile iron pipe spanning forty-five thousand (45,000) feet of replacement pipelines. An additional nine thousand (9,000) feet of 12-inch and 14-inch water main will be installed from Clifton Road to North Druid Hills Road. Water mains within Reindeer Drive R/W and associated branches will also be replaced as most of the pipes in these areas have reached or exceeded their expected useful life and have had multiple failures and service interruptions. The existing 2-inch to 6-inch water mains and the 16-inch steel transmission main along North Druid Hills Road will be replaced by 8-inch ductile iron pipe water mains and a new 16-inch ductile iron pipe to replace the old transmission main. The Dekalb County Department of Watershed Management has developed plans for replacement of water mains in the area along Buford Drive. The project includes approximately 12,100 feet of 12-inch and 5,400 feet of 24-inch water main.

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.

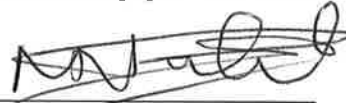
This determination shall become effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD and can be revoked if significant adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public scrutiny upon request. A copy of the proposed project documentation is also available for review at Dekalb County Government.

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: Daniel Weisman, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
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 Dekalb County Government.~~

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