

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water Treatment Plants Improvements to treat PFAS

City of Calhoun (WSID #1290000)

Gordon County, GA

ECDW2022001

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 a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Emerging Contaminants program. 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.

Under this project, the City of Calhoun would change-out filter media or implement other advanced technologies, install ancillary equipment (pumps, blowers, contact chambers, filter drains), and modify other operational procedures in their Brittany Dr. WTP and Mauldin Rd. WTP as recommended by the pilot study consultant to facilitate the removal of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from their source water (Coosawattee River, Big Springs, and Karst aquifer). Specifically, PFOA and PFOS are being targeted due to exceeding the draft Maximum Contaminant Level (MCLs) regulation that were proposed in March 2023.

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 the City Hall in Calhoun, 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: Duplex Tchinda, 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 Calhoun area.

Publish Date: 07/27/2023



Patel Manny, Program Manager
Drinking Water Program