

Richard E. Dunn, Director

EPD Director's Office2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System Improvements
City of Moultrie (Colquitt County)
GEFA Loan No. CW-2021-017

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above project in accordance with the State's Environmental Review Process (SERP). EPD has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, no further environmental review is planned.

The proposed project consists of upgrades to the headworks, including a new influent screen and grit separation equipment; upgrades to the existing digesters, including replacement/repair of the mixers, sludge pumps, and other miscellaneous equipment; and, replacement of the existing waste pumps. The project will also include miscellaneous rehabilitation to the existing primary clarifiers, back-up pumps, boiler, and drying beds, as well as the demolition of old treatment units at the facility. These improvements will address varying equipment failures and aging infrastructure throughout the facility.

Furthermore, the project includes the installation of flow meters throughout the City to identify areas of high contributions of inflow and infiltration; then, the rehabilitation via trenchless methods of the sewer mains identified in the flow study, as well as miscellaneous improvements to existing pump stations. Where feasible, a sufficient buffer will be maintained between the sewer rehabilitation project(s) and nearby railroads to avoid any impacts. An effort will also be made to retore all historical areas (i.e. retaining walls, sidewalks, curbing, etc.) to their preconstruction conditions, as necessary.

There will be no increase in the capacity as a result of the facility and/or sewer improvements and existing buildings will not be impacted as a result of this project. All construction will also be located on existing right-of-ways and City-owned property.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the SERP: functional replacement of equipment, minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent to existing facilities that do not affect the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facility. Furthermore: the project will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters; the project will not substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants; the project will not provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; the project will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment; the action will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, habitats of endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resource areas; and the action is cost-effective and should cause no significant public controversy.

Categorical Exclusion GEFA Loan No. CW-2021-017 City of Moultrie Page 2 of 2

This determination becomes effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD. This exclusion may be revoked at any time if: 1) the project is altered and no longer meets the requirements of a categorical exclusion, 2) new evidence shows that serious environmental issues exist, or 3) a local, State or Federal law is being or may be violated. The information which supports this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public review upon request. A copy of the proposed project documentation is also available for review at Moultrie City Hall in Colquitt County, Georgia.

All interested agencies, groups and persons supporting or disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit comments within thirty (30) days of the publish date of this notice via email to <u>kelli-ann.sottile@dnr.ga.gov</u> or to the following address:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division Watershed Protection Branch Wastewater Regulatory Program ATTN: Kelli-Ann Sottile 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1152 East Atlanta, Georgia 30334

After evaluating the comments received, EPD will make a final decision regarding approval of the project. No administrative action will be taken on the project for thirty (30) calendar days after publication of this Notice.

JAN 2 1 2021

Publish Date:

Richard E. Dunn, Director

Environmental Protection Division

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