

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Suite 1470A, East Tower Atlanta, Georgia 30334 404-463-1511

NOTICE OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS

The Dade County Water Authority has made an application to the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a grant through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The grant is for constructing of new water main along Vanguard Industrial Road and State Route (SR) 299 to provide safe and adequate water supply to Dade County Water Authority customers. The applicant has certified that the project is environmentally sound. As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Guidelines, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name: Water Distribution System Improvements

Project Location: Dade County, Georgia

Total Project Cost: \$1,236,500

Anticipated DWSRF ARC Grant Amount: \$618,250

Project Description

The proposed project includes installation of approximately 3,400 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch ductile iron water main along Vanguard Industrial Road, including two gate valves, one fire hydrant and bore creek crossing; installation of approximately 3,600 LF of 8-inch ductile iron main line along SR 299, including installation of five gate valves, three fire hydrants with 6-inch gate valves, 565 linear feet of interstate bore and case with 12-inch steel casing, reconnecting three commercial and five residential services, and the addition of four connections to the existing distribution system.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project identified one stream bed as a wetland according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wetland Inventory website. This stream will require crossing on the SR 299 but will be accomplished by laying the water main on top of the 10' box culvert on the abandoned SR 299 roadbed. Construction Best Management Practices will be utilized near the stream. Also, both proposed water mains pass through areas that are in flood plains. The water mains will be installed below grade by trenching. The trenches will be restored to the existing contours and do not impact the flood plains. The proposed water main extension on Vanguard Industrial Road will provide an additional water supply to the I-59, I-24, US HWY 11 corridor north of Trento toward the Georgia-Tennessee state line. This provides an alternate route to supply water to this area in the event of a leak or other condition that could render the existing supply lines unusable leaving customers without water in the area north of Trenton. The SR 299 Water Main upgrade replaces small and deteriorating water mains along the State Road from the I-24 Exit to US HWY 11. It also provides another supply to the northwest side of I-24. There are several businesses and a medical facility along this route. A few residential customers will also benefit from the additional volume of water made available.

A review of the Engineering Report and Environmental Information Document for the proposed project has been performed by EPD's Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering Program. A copy of these documents is available for public examination upon request at EPD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The addresses where a copy is available are listed below.

During the development and design of this project, the Dade County has solicited public input. The project has undergone an Executive Order 12372 Review through the State agencies. The project has also been submitted to the Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review. No adverse comments have been received. No further environmental review of the project is proposed to be conducted prior to the release of funds.

All interested agencies, groups and persons supporting or disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments, within thirty (30) days of the issuance date of this notice to:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division ATTN: Asmita Patel, Environmental Engineer Drinking Water Program 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1470A, East Tower Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

After evaluating all 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 issuance of this Notice.

Issue Date: 4/9/24

Manny Patel Drinking Water Program Manager Watershed Protection Branch Georgia Environmental Protection Division