

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

The City of Folkston has made an application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), and the Georgia Office of Budget and Planning for a grant through the State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The project consists of the expansion of the City's existing Folkston Water Pollution Control Plant to 1.3 million gallons per day (MGD). The applicant has certified that the project is environmentally sound. As required by the Federal Clean Water Act, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name: City of Folkston
Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
ARPA Grant No. GA-0005317

Project Location: City of Folkston, Charlton County, GA

Total Project Cost: \$11,309,808.00

Anticipated ARPA Grant Amount: \$5,074,904.00

Project Description

The City of Folkston's existing facility has a combined capacity of 1.08 MGD with three primary discharge locations (0.28 MGD pond system to Clay Branch, 0.5 MGD constructed wetland system to Spanish Creek, and 0.3 MGD land treatment system with an underdrain system). The City proposes to expand their existing 0.28 MGD discharge to Clay Branch to 1.0 MGD by installing a new mechanical plant and abandon their existing 0.5 MGD constructed wetland system discharge to Spanish Creek, increasing the facility's total design capacity to 1.3 MGD. The project will accommodate flow/population projections for the area and for the local correctional institute along with eliminating concerns of meeting future nutrient effluent limitations.

The new mechanical plant will include influent screening, grit removal, biological treatment (sequencing batch reactors), chemical addition for phosphorus removal and pH/alkalinity control, tertiary filtration, and UV disinfection. Treated effluent will then be discharged to Clay Branch. Sludge will be treated in an aerobic digester and dewatered before being transported to a landfill. The existing lagoon and ponds will be used as equalization basins or storage ponds while the 0.3 MGD land treatment system will be used as a backup during high flows. The underdrain system for the land treatment system will be retained to lower the groundwater beneath the irrigation area, thereby improving the operation of the land treatment system, and the two underdrain discharges will be monitored under the City's NPDES permit.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will serve the City of Folkston and D. Ray James Prison. The project will provide reliable treatment and effluent quality for the future population and additional flow to Clay Branch.

Minor negative temporary impacts may include noise, dust and erosion/sedimentation associated with construction activities. Best Management Practices will be in place during construction. The project will take place primarily on City property (or right-of-way) and/or previously disturbed land. No impacts to existing buildings are anticipated as a result of the project.

The current rates for wastewater are not anticipated to increase as a result of the project.

No anticipated adverse secondary impacts are associated with the project. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement has been made.

The reason for the decision not to prepare such a statement is as follows: Project activity is not anticipated to result in adverse environmental impacts beyond those that can be easily mitigated with minimal extra expense or delay in project implementation.

Public Notice

A public information meeting was held on May 5, 2022 at Folkston City Hall to discuss the proposed project. No adverse comments were received during the 30-day advertisement period or during the meeting.

An Environmental Review Record concerning the proposed project has been made by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division that documents the environmental review of the project and provides more detail explaining why an environmental impact statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file at the Division's address listed below. A copy of the SRF planning document is available for public review upon request at Folkston City Hall during business hours and at the Division between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

No further environmental review of this project is proposed to be conducted prior to the release of loan funds.

All interested agencies, groups and persons supporting or disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments within 30 days of the issuance date of this notice via email to chris.bruegge@dnr.ga.gov or to the following address:

Environmental Protection Division
Watershed Protection Branch
Wastewater Regulatory Program
ATTN: Chris Bruegge
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1470A East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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

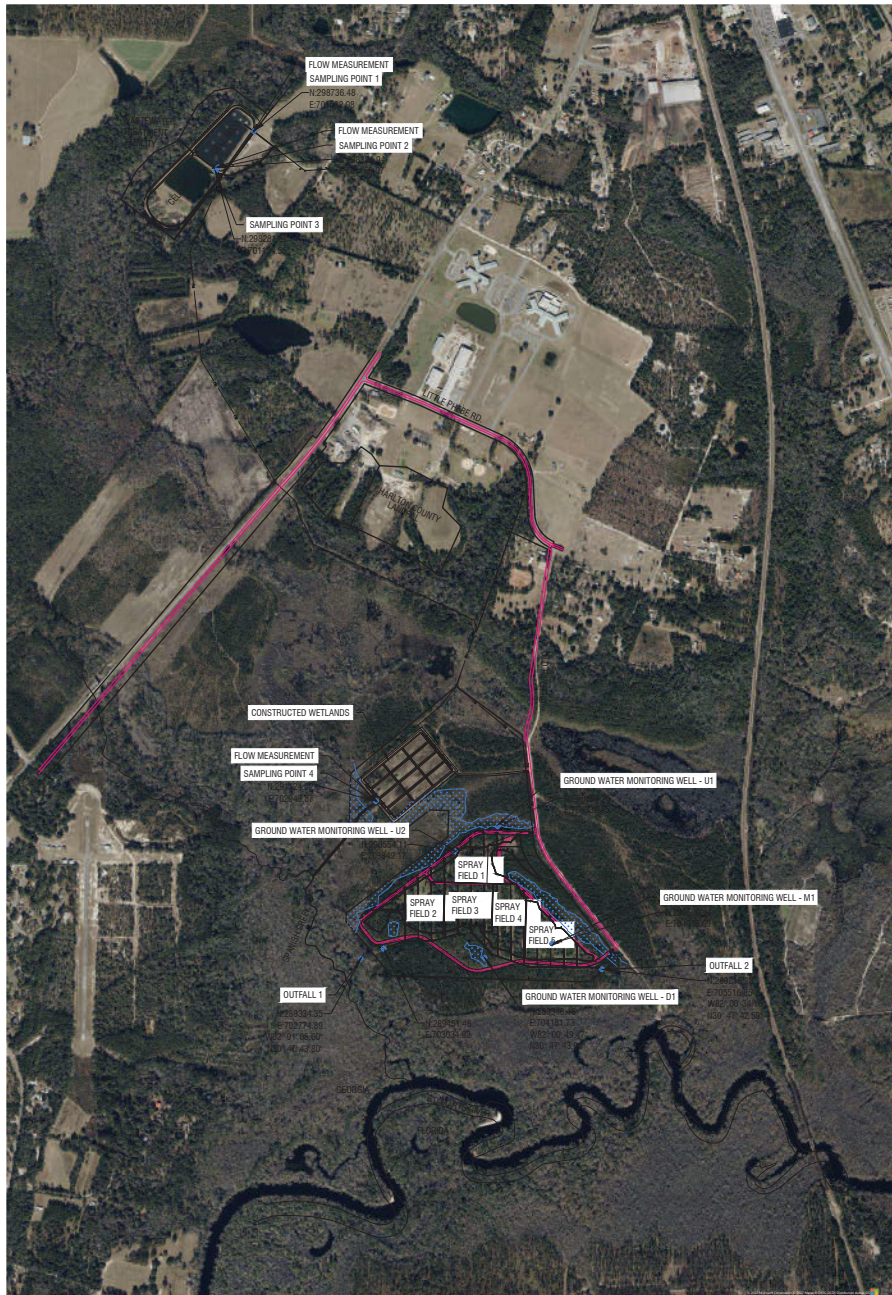
Loan Recipient: City of Folkston
541 First Street
Folkston, GA 31537

12/14/2022

Issue Date: _____

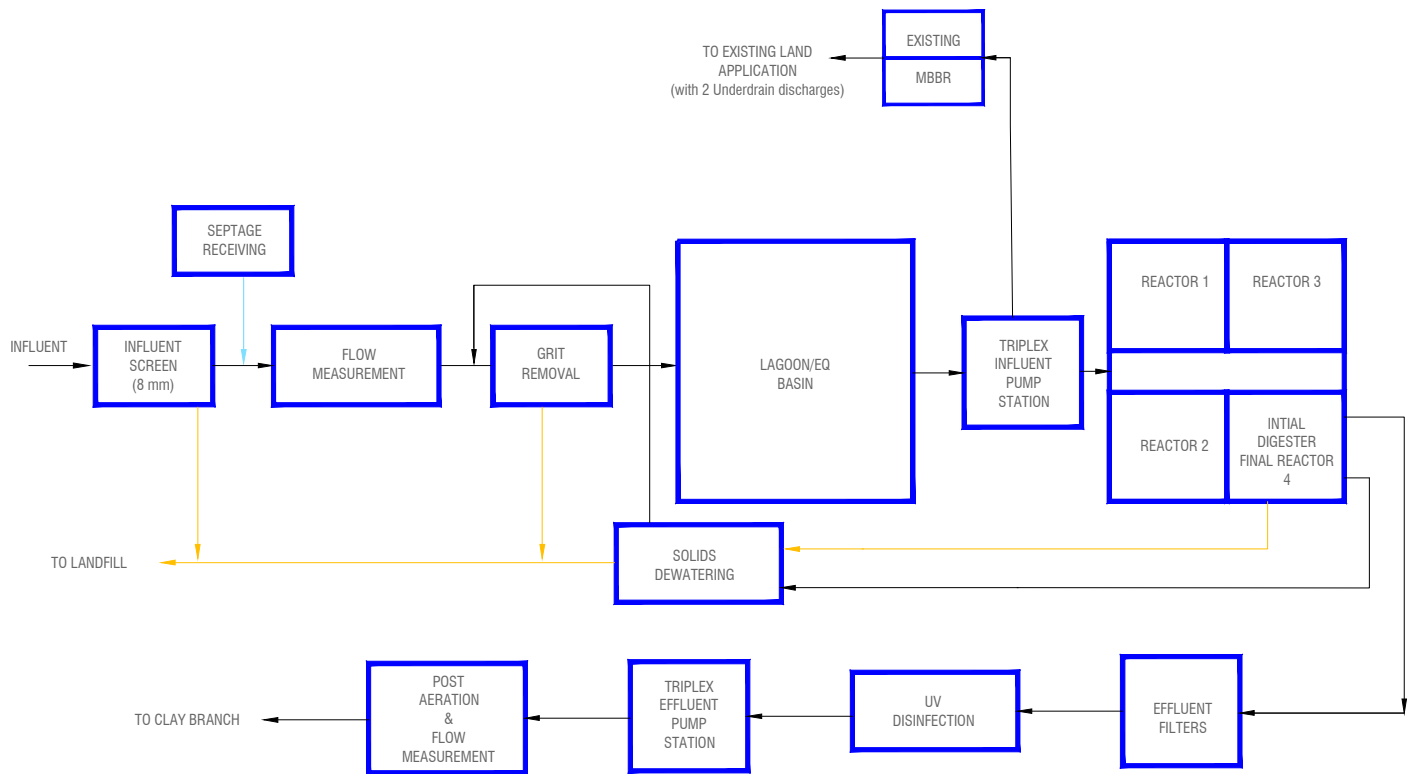
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Dunn", written over a horizontal line.

Richard E. Dunn
Director
Environmental Protection Division



1. TREATMENT LAGOON
2. STORAGE POND
3. EXISTING MBR PROCESS TANK
4. EXISTING LAS PUMP STATION
5. EXISTING OPERATIONS BUILDING
6. PROPOSED INFLUENT PUMP STATION
7. PROPOSED HEADWORKS
8. PROPOSED INFLUENT PUMP STATION
9. PROPOSED SBR BASINS
10. PROPOSED EQUALIZATION BASINS
11. PROPOSED CLOTH DISK FILTERS
12. PROPOSED UV SYSTEM
13. PROPOSED DIGESTER
14. PROPOSED BELT PRESS
15. PROPOSED CHEMICAL STORAGE BUILDING
16. PROPOSED CHEMICAL BUILDING
17. PROPOSED BLOWER BUILDING
18. PROPOSED GENERATORS
19. PROPOSED ELECTRICAL BUILDING
20. PROPOSED NEW OPERATIONS BUILDING AND LAB

30°49'15.9"N	82°01'23.3"W	30.821063	-82.023135
30°49'11.4"N	82°01'27.3"W	30.819838	-82.024254
30°49'12.3"N	82°01'23.4"W	30.820082	-82.023153
30°49'12.2"N	82°01'23.1"W	30.820047	-82.023078
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Folkston Water Pollution Control Plant
Plant Flow Schematic