

Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

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

The Bryan – Bullock Regional Water Supply and Transmission System has made an application to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a grant through the State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF). The grant is for the water system improvements to provide additional water supply and transmission infrastructure to serve new industries and developments in the surrounding region located in North Bryan County. The applicant has certified that the project is environmentally sound. As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) Guidelines, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name: Bryan – Bulloch Regional Water Supply and Transmission

System

Project Location: Bryan County, Georgia

Project Number: GA-0005950

Project Description

Under this project, the Bryan – Bulloch Regional Water Supply and Transmission system will construct 87,000 linear feet of water main, five (5) new wells, one new elevated water storage tank, two (2) new booster pump stations and a flow meter station. The water transmission system will be located on GA Highway 46 and Eldora Road in Bulloch County, and US highway 80, Eldora Road, Old Cuyler Road, and within Interstate 16 Mega-Site in Bryan County. The proposed project will provide water service for the Interstate 16 Mega-Site and additional future development adjacent to the Interstate 16.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will have minimal impact on the environment as construction will be limited to the existing project site. The proposed water main route along GA Highway 46 and Eldora Road in Bulloch County, and Old Cuyler Road in Bryan County, will cross forested and non-forested wetlands. It is anticipated that the wetlands will be crossed via horizontal directional drill (HDD) method to eliminate disturbances.

Based on the National Register of Historic Places website, the Blitch Cemetery lies within the vicinity of the proposed water transmission main route. The extents of the Blitch Cemetery have been surveyed and the proposed water mains will avoid any disturbances within the site.

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 Bryan County Board of Commissioners 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 from State Historic Preservation Office and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Jurisdictional Determination (JD) and Nationwide Permit (NWP) 58 is required for utility line crossing a wetland. Coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District project manager has been initiated and the environmental consultant is preparing a request for Jurisdictional Determination and Nationwide Permit 58 and will be forwarded to EPD upon approval. 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.

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Issue Date: <u>3/31/2023</u>

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