

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 City of Hahira has made an application to the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a loan through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF). The loan is for building a well to provide reliable redundancy for the water system and meet demand for the city of Hahira. 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: Randall Street Well Improvements for the City of Hahira

Project Location: Lowndes County, Georgia

Total Project Cost: \$1,350,000

Anticipated DWSRF Loan Amount: \$200,000

Project Description

The City of Hahira is currently experiencing several deficiencies in its water system. Deficiencies include an inoperable well and a well that exceeds maximum contaminant level for Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5), for which the city has received a Notice of Violation. The City of Hahira is proposing to drill a new groundwater well at the Randall street property in order to replace the original Well #1 that is out of service. Well #1 cannot be economically repaired in its current location, so the new well will be offset on the same property. It is understood that the existing chemical feed building, and systems will remain in place, with upgrades and/or improvements to the operation equipment aimed at optimizing performance. The new well will be returned to service for use with disinfection and fluoridation. Electrical components and services will need to be run from the new well to the existing chemical feed building along with site improvements on the property plus the addition of a new emergency generator. The proposed replacement well will pump at a lower capacity compared to the previous Randall Street Well to ensure water quality is maintained.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will have minimal impact on the environment as construction will be limited to the existing project site. The project area is located in an area of minimal flood hazards and is usually above the 500-year flood level. Proper erosion control measures will be implemented during construction and will not cause any permanent impacts to the floodplain. Soil stability/erodibility prevention measures will be in accordance with EPD regulations both during and after construction. Construction and operation of the deep well site will produce noise levels louder than normal levels in the vicinity of its installation, but only during construction which will only occur during daylight hours, and will return to normal upon project completion.

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 City of Hahira 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 loan 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: Johann Phan, Environmental Engineer Drinking Water Program 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1052 East 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.

1000

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

Loan Recipient:

Issue Date: <u>2/20/2025</u>

City of Hahira 102 S. Church Street Hahira, GA 31632