



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

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

Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority has made an application to the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund for Water/Sewer Infrastructure and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a loan through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The loan is for expansion of Newton County's water distribution infrastructure to accommodate predicted growth in east Newton County. The East Newton Water Transmission Improvement Phase II (ENWTI) will be constructed on the north side of I-20, along right-of-way, and on the south side of the Stanton Grove project. The 24" potable water line will then run north alongside Highway 11. 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:	East Newton Water Transmission Improvement Phase II
Project Location:	Newton County, Georgia
Total Project Cost:	\$12,500,000.00
Anticipated ARPA Loan Amount:	\$12,500,000.00
Project Number:	0013642

Project Description

This project involves Newton County expanding its 24-inch potable water main by approximately 22,000 linear feet, crossing Georgia Highway 11 and US 278.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will have minimal impact on the environment as construction will be limited to the existing right of way. The proposed addition to the water main will support expected industrial and population growth, improving the potable water supply to meet future development demands.

A review of the Preliminary 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 at the address listed below.

On September 23, 2024, Newton County Water and Sewerage Authority (NCWSA) conducted a public meeting in accordance with the requirements of DWSRF guidance in order to inform the public about the project. The County received no adverse comments. 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. As identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, endangered species are expected to be present in the project area. Therefore, the county must adhere to the recommendations provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. A 25-foot minimum undisturbed vegetative buffer between each stream bank and the bore pits should be established as recommended by the Wildlife Resources Division. The County must receive Nationwide Permit 58 (NWP 58) permit as suggested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the construction improvements falling in their right of way. 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: Pubali Sarker, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1470A East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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.

12/2/2024

Issue Date: _____



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