

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

Hart County Water and Sewer 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 loan through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF). The loan is for the installation 80,000 linear feet of new drinking water main lines and all necessary appurtenances in the northeast region of Hart County. 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:	Northeast Hart County Water System Extension
Project Location:	Hart County, Georgia
Total Project Cost:	\$4,985,000.00
Anticipated DWSRF Loan Amount:	\$4,985,000.00

Project Description

The project entails the addition of potable water lines infrastructure in the northeast region of Hart County, Georgia. At present, the Hart County Water and Sewer Authority has no water mains servicing this area. The only source of drinking water currently available in this region are individual wells and a few privately owned systems. This initiative aims to address this gap in service and provide a reliable source of potable water to the residents of this area.

Anticipated Impacts

Based on responses from government agencies the proposed project will have minor impact on the environment, cultural resources, and residents within the service area. Any disturbed wetlands, flood plain, or river corridor will be restored to its existing contours and no additional fill will be placed. The project will not degrade water quality or permanently minimize the quantity of water available in the aquifer. Roads will be wetted to eliminate dusty conditions. Erosion of sedimentation will be minimized by installing erosion control devices.

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 Hart County Water and Sewer Authority 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 were received. If there

are no public objections, then this Notice of No Significant Impact (NONSI) will be adopted without further public notice and Georgia Environmental Protection Division Drinking Water Permitting and Engineer program will issue final approval of the project planning document. 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: Tamika Samaroo, Environmental Engineer Drinking Water Program 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1470A 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.

Issue Date: <u>4/22/2024</u>

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