

David B. Dove, Interim 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

Lumpkin County Water and Sewerage Authority has made an application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) for a loan through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The project consists of the phased construction of a new 1.0-MGD water pollution control plant (WPCP). The proposed plant will first be discharging treated effluent to Cane Branch (up to 0.25 MGD). The outfall will then be relocated to Lake Lanier via the Chestatee River Embayment for higher discharge flows (up to 1.0 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: Lumpkin County Water and Sewerage Authority

New 1.0-MGD Discharge GEFA Loan No. CW-2023-002

Project Location: City of Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, GA

Total Project Cost: \$17,500,000

Anticipated SRF Loan Amount: \$3,000,000

Project Description

The Lumpkin County Water and Sewerage Authority proposes to construct a new 1.0-MGD water pollution control plant that will first be discharging to Cane Branch (0.25 MGD) and then to Lake Lanier via the Chestatee River Embayment (up to 1.0 MGD). The project will accommodate flow/population projections for the area and will serve the proposed new hospital. The new facility will include an influent pump station, screening, biological treatment (anaerobic, pre-anoxic, pre-aeration, and post-anoxic basins), membrane bioreactors, UV disinfection, and post aeration. Sludge will be treated in aerobic digesters and dewatered before being transported to a third party for further treatment.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will serve Lumpkin County and a proposed new hospital. The project will provide reliable treatment and effluent quality for the future population.

Minor negative temporary impacts may include noise, dust and erosion/sedimentation associated with construction activities. Best Management Practices will be in place during construction. A wetlands permit and/or Nationwide Permit 58 will be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to approval of the plans & specifications for the effluent discharge pipe to Lake Lanier via the Chestatee River Embayment.

The project will take place primarily on City property (or right-of-way) and/or previously disturbed land and no impacts to existing buildings are anticipated as a result of the project.

Notice of No Significant Impact Lumpkin County Water and Sewerage Authority GEFA Loan No. CW-2023-002 Page 2

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 July 1, 2022 at the Lumpkin County Administration Building 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 Environmental Review and Planning Document (ERPD) is available for public review upon request at the County offices 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 <u>august.lutkehus@.dnr.ga.gov</u> or to the following address:

Environmental Protection Division Watershed Protection Branch Wastewater Regulatory Program ATTN: August Lutkehus 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: Lumpkin County Water and Sewerage Authority 194 Courthouse Hill. Annex A

Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

Issue Date:

David B. Dove
Interim Director
Environmental Protection Division



