

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water Meter Installation Improvements

City of Damascus (WSID# 0990001)

Early County, Georgia

DWSRF #19-006

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above subject project in accordance with the State's Environmental Review Process (SERP) for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) projects. The EPD has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, the EPD is exempting the project from further substantive environmental review requirements under Georgia's SERP.

The proposed project involves initial water meter installation to about 110 customers throughout the city. The city currently does not have water meters. The addition of water meters and replacement of service lines, water meter box assemblies, backflow preventers, and all other necessary metering appurtenances will improve water system and water conservation.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Replacement of existing water lines, valves, hydrants and appurtenances in existing rights-of-way for streets or utilities to serve existing customers, as well as, modest growth (less than 10%) within the existing service area resulting in no change in existing land use; installation of new or replacement of existing backflow prevention devices and/or meters at existing customers service connections.

Furthermore:

- The project will not require issuance of a new or modification of an existing ground water or surface water withdrawal permit;
- The project is not known or expected to have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment, either individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local or private actions;
- The project is not known or expected to directly or indirectly have a significant adverse effect on: cultural resource areas, such as archaeological and historic sites; habitats of endangered or threatened species; or environmentally important natural resource areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands or aquifer recharge areas; and
- The action is cost-effective and is not expected to cause significant public controversy.

This determination shall become effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD and can be revoked if significant adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public scrutiny upon request. A copy of the proposed project documentation is also available for review at the City Hall in Damascus, Georgia.

All interested agencies, groups and persons supporting or disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments, within thirty (30) days of the publish date of this notice to:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Madina Mugisa, Environmental Engineer III
Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1362 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

After evaluating the 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 publication of this Notice in a local newspaper that serves the City of Damascus area.

Publish Date: October 29, 2018


Keith Carnley, Program Manager
Drinking Water Program
Georgia Environmental Protection Division