

# **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

### Richard E. Dunn, Director

#### **Watershed Protection Branch**

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Suite 1152, East Tower Atlanta, Georgia 30334 404-463-1511

# NOTICE OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS

The Coosa Water 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 will support locating and developing one water supply well, replacing undersize water lines and improving well and pump stations. 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:

Water System Improvements, Phase 1 for Coosa Water

Authority

Project Location:

Union County, Georgia

**Total Project Cost:** 

\$5,715,000.00

Anticipated DWSRF Loan Amount:

\$5,715,000.00

#### **Project Description**

The project proposes to replace undersized water lines in poor condition, locate and develop new water supply wells, improve system storage, and improve existing wells and pump stations. The project will improve system reliability, reduce risk of over pumping existing wells and improve supply in east and west areas of the system but will not increase overall groundwater withdrawal. Proposed water tanks will support proposed wells and improve storage and reliability.

## **Anticipated Impacts**

The proposed project will have minimal impact on the sensitive environmental areas, critical habitats and cultural resources. Temporary impacts of construction to residents in the project area are justified to address critical needs of the same residents. A soil erosion and sediment control plan and best management practices will help reduce erosion and run off. Proper stream crossings and installation methods will minimize impacts due to line replacements at crossings and short sections of exiting lines in flood plain area. The Wildlife Resources Division will be consulted to protect priority plants and species. Tests for wells proposed on floodplain areas will be conducted and well sites will be properly surveyed by a professional geologist and permission would be taken from Georgia EPD.

A review of the 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 Coosa Water 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: Disha Thakkar, Environmental Engineer Drinking Water Program 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1362 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: 1/22/2019

Keith Carnley

Drinking Water Program Manager

Watershed Protection Branch Georgia Environmental Protection Division

Loan Recipient:

Coosa Water Authority P.O. Box 804 Blairsville, GA 30514