

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvements

City of Rochelle

Wilcox County, GA

DWSRF GEFA Project No.: DW2025001

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 City of Rochelle's proposed water system improvement project includes the following upgrades:

1. Replacing 680 manual-read water meters with automated meter reading (AMR) water meters.
2. Purchasing and installing meter reading infrastructure, hardware and billing software.
3. Installing a larger diameter water main loop around the elevated water storage tank.
4. Installing telemetry improvements to enhance communicate with the wells and elevated tank.
5. Upgrading the existing well pumps to ensure sufficient pumping capacity.

This project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Construction of new water lines, valves, hydrants and appurtenances in previously disturbed areas within ½ mile of the existing distribution system and storage facilities for purpose of system reliability, both serving primarily existing residential or commercial users and Installation of new or replacement of existing backflow prevention devices and/or meters at existing customers service connections; Furthermore:

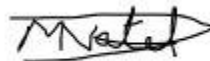
- The project will not require issuance of a new or modification of an existing ground water or surface water withdrawal permit.
- The project is not known or expected to have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment, either individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction 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/or threatened species; or environmentally important natural resource areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands or aquifer recharge areas; and cultural resource areas, such as archaeological and historic sites; habitats of endangered species.
- 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 Rochelle, 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
ATTN: Tamika Samaroo, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1052 East Tower
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 Rochelle area.



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Manny Patel, Program Manager
Drinking Water Program
Georgia Environmental Protection Division