

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Exit 24- Proposed Water System Improvements

Twiggs County

GA0006124

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 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 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 will include the installation of approximately 3,300 LF of 12-inch water main, isolation valves, fire hydrants, and all related appurtenances to connect a proposed truck stop and travel center located adjacent to Exit 24 and Interstate-16. The proposed extension is necessary to supply the truck stop and travel center with adequate and reliable potable water service, create jobs in the area, and allow the county to continue to grow while developing the Exit 24 interchange. All proposed improvements will occur within the County or State public Right-of-Way.

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 the purpose of system reliability, both serving primarily existing residential or commercial users. Furthermore:

- The project will not require issuance of a new or modification of an existing groundwater 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 air quality and on/or threatened species; or environmentally important natural resource areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, coastal barriers and zones, 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 County Hall in Twiggs County, 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: Duplex Tchinda, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1052 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

After evaluating the comments received, EPD will make a final decision regarding the 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 Twiggs County area.

4/14/2026

Publish Date: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Manny Patel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Patel Manny, Program Manager
Drinking Water Program