

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvement
Lee County-Countywide Meter Replacement-(WSID# GA 1770068)
DWSRF2017022

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above subject project's planning document 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 countywide water meter replacement.

Based on the information provided in engineering report submitted by the applicant's consultant in October 2017, the water meters are out of date, ineffective and are in dire need of replacement. The project will include a complete system wide replacement of all water meters and implementation of the reading equipment. The new water meter will increase meter accuracy and efficiency. The meters will also increase water conservation monitoring, water accountability, management, and eliminate meter misreads.

This proposed project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP:

All new water meters will be installed within existing rights-of way for street or utilities. The existing service area will not change as a result of the proposed project and no new customer will be served by this project.

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

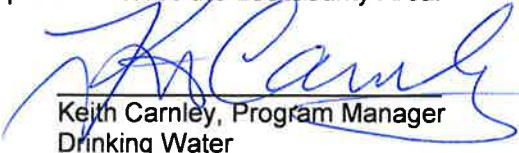
This determination shall become effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD and can be revoked if significant adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public scrutiny upon request. A copy of the proposed project documentation is also available for review at the Lee County Utility Authority's administrative building located at 905 US-19, Leesburg, GA 21763.

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
Rais Khan, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Permitting & Engineering Unit
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 Lee County Area.

Publish Date: 12-13-2017


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