

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvement
Town of Homer-Banks County
WSID # GA0110000 DWSRF Loan # DW2016014

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 consists of: i) Replacement of approximately 420 existing ¾-inch meters and approximately 20 larger meters with accurate radio-read meters, and installation of all equipment, software and appurtenances for a complete, operating system. Where required to restore proper services, service lines, meter boxes, lids, pipe, backflow preventers, stops and other materials will be installed.

ii) Location and replacement of aged, leaking water lines, including existing asbestos-cement lines.

This proposed project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: The proposed improvements are to meet existing needs and will not result in a change in existing land use. Also the proposed automated meter reading system replacement will be done 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 Town of Homer City Hall

Additionally, as per Department of the Army Savannah District, Corps of Engineer's comments, "The general project location provided appears to be within the floodplain of the Hudson River, where there is a highly probability for the presence of wetland. A stream and wetland delineation is required for any Nationwide or Standard Permit application."

During the design phase of construction plans and specifications, the Town of Homer must delineate any wetlands and request the appropriate permits from the Department of the Army Savannah District, Corps of Engineer prior to construction. Copies of all documentation and correspondence with the Corps must be provided to EPD.

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 Coweta County area.

Publish Date: _____



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