

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvement

Monroe County

WSID # GA 2970001 WSRF Loan # DW2017001

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 includes the installation of water main across the Towaliga River (hanging from the bridge). This water main will connect two of the county's water system that is not currently interconnected. The water system will also install two (2) booster pump stations.

This proposed project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: All new water lines are being placed within the existing rights-of-way for streets or facilities. Construction of all new water lines, valves and appurtenance area will be within half a mile of existing distribution system and storage facilities and be for the use of system reliability. The existing service area will not change as result of this project and no new customers 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 Monroe County's Board of Commissioners Office in Forsyth

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 Monroe County Area.

Publish Date: 2-7-17



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