

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**  
Water System Improvements - Water Meter Replacement Phase IV  
City of Blue Ridge (WSID# GA1110000)  
Fannin County, Georgia  
**DWSRF17-017**

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 proposed DWSRF project includes replacement of approximately 650, 3/4" water meters and 50 1" or larger water meters, and the installation and set up of AMI infrastructure and software for use with the new meters.

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 1/2 mile of the existing distribution system and storage facilities for 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 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: habitats of endangered 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;
- The action is cost-effective and is not expected to cause significant public controversy.

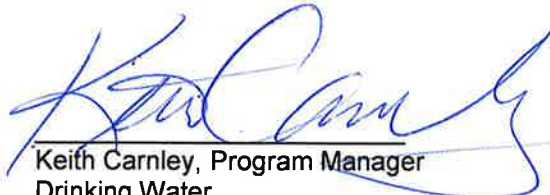
This determination shall become effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD and can be revoked if significant adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public scrutiny upon request. A copy of the proposed project documentation is also available for review at City Hall in the City of Blue Ridge, 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  
Aijia Xu, Environmental Engineer  
Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering Program  
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 City of Blue Ridge.

Publish Date: 10/4/17

  
Keith Carnley, Program Manager  
Drinking Water  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division