

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Meter Replacement

Replacement of approximately 6,600 water meters

City of Thomson, Georgia (WSID# GA 1890001)

DWSRF2017007

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 project involves the proposal of replacing 6,600 water meters for residential, commercial and industrial use, and installation of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) to manage and collect metering data. The current water meters are nearing the end of their useful lifespan and require replacement for accurate readings, which will enhance the efficiency of the water utility services provided by the City of Thomson by reducing non-revenue water. The project also includes replacement of some deteriorated meter boxes and service lines where needed.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Replacement of existing water lines, valves, hydrants, and appurtenances in existing rights-of-ways for streets or utilities to serve existing customers, as well as, modest growth (less than 10%) within existing service area resulting in no change in existing land use.

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.

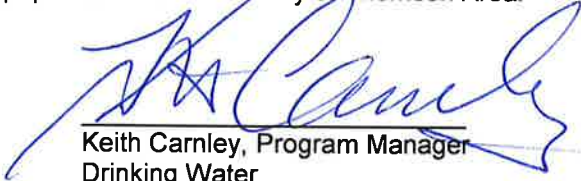
This determination shall become effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD and can be revoked if significant adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public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

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
Lynn C. Ellis, 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 City of Thomson Area.

Publish Date: 10/25/17


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