

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

### Meter Replacement

Replacement of approximately 10,000 water meters

Baldwin County, Georgia (WSID# GA 0090000)

**DWSRF2017013**

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 10,000 meters ranging in size from ¾' to 12'. Nearly all of the county's existing water meters are more than 15 years old, with inaccuracies estimated between 5% and 10%. This project will result in replacement of these ageing meters with new meter that can be read remotely, eliminating the need for meter readers to visit these meters monthly. All meter will be replaced with the existing meter boxes. This project will replace all of the existing water meters within the county's water system.

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 Baldwin County, 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 Baldwin County Area.

Publish Date: 10/25/17

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