



**NOTICE OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS**

The City of Helen has made an application to the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a loan through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF). The loan is for constructing a new groundwater well for increased water supply to meet the demand during the peak holiday weekends. On February 15, 2018 the EPD – Mountain District Office issued permission-to-dill one new test well. The applicant has certified that the project is environmentally sound. As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Guidelines, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name:	City of Helen – Water System Improvements
Project Location:	White County, Georgia
Total Project Cost:	\$780,000
Anticipated DWSRF Loan Amount:	\$780,000

Project Description

Under this project, the City of Helen will add a well due to the significant water supply needs during peak holiday weekends. The existing water system is unable to successfully convey water from the White County emergency back-up interconnection and well #3 to the distribution system. Therefore, the City plans to upgrade its water distribution system to allow increased flow from both water sources, and create redundancy in the system. The primary purpose of the project is to provide adequate water supply to existing water customers.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will add an estimated 0.03 MGD to the water system. The City of Helen’s permit allows a maximum monthly withdrawal of 0.4 MGD, the current peak monthly withdrawal is less than 0.35 MGD. Existing City of Helen customers will greatly benefit with the increased water supply from this proposed project. Upon completion of the new well, the City of Helen will submit a permit application to modify their current permit to operate a public water system.

A review of the Engineering Report and Environmental Information Document for the proposed project has been performed by EPD’s Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering Program. A copy of these documents is available for public examination upon request at EPD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The addresses where a copy is available are listed below.

During the development and design of this project, the City of Helen has solicited public input. The project has undergone an Executive Order 12372 Review through the State agencies. The project has

also been submitted to the Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review. No adverse comments have been received. No further environmental review of the project is proposed to be conducted prior to the release of loan funds.

All interested agencies, groups and persons supporting or disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments, within thirty (30) days of the issuance date of this notice to:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
ATTN: John Towe, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1362 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

After evaluating all 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 issuance of this Notice.

Issue Date:

3/21/2018



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

Loan Recipient:

City of Helen
25 Alpenrosen Strasse
PO Box 280
Helen, GA 30545