

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Town of Huachuca City Water Distribution System Improvements
Huachuca City, Cochise County, Arizona

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Town of Huachuca City, Arizona is proposing to upgrade its water distribution system to address low water pressure problems and eliminate water line dead ends.

Huachuca City is a small residential community of about 1,751 inhabitants located in Cochise County, Arizona about 20 miles north of the US-Mexico border and 64 miles southeast of Tucson on Highway 90. The proposed action involves installation of a new eight-inch pipeline west of Highway 90, connections of dead ends on Pershing Street, an alley off Clark Street, Mountain View Avenue and an adjacent alley, and the addition of two 4,600 gallon, hydropneumatic tanks at Skyline and Howard Wells.

The new water lines will be installed in trenches three to four feet deep, and located within alley, street or highway right-of-way. The only exception will be the connection between Highway 90 and Howard Street, which will be placed in an easement adjacent to the property line of an existing church.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to address low water pressure problems in Huachuca City. Users in the area west of Highway 90 in the Upper Zone have complained of low pressures in their businesses and residences during periods of high demand. The low pressures and water flows are a result of small diameter pipes installed along Highway 90. In addition, this portion is only connected to the main distribution system at one point creating long runs that dead end to the north and south. The lack of looping and low line pressure may promote cross contamination of water lines, stagnant water at dead ends with associated deposition and other public health risks. The proposed water lines will improve water flow to this area and enable the lines to meet peak flow needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, EPA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. After considering a wide range of regulatory, and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of this project.

PUBLIC REVIEW

The EA is on file, along with other project materials, and is available for public inspection at the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco, California. Copies of the EA are also available for public review in Huachuca City at the Town Hall, 500 N. Gonzalez Blvd., (520) 456-1354, contact: Pat Ohare. In addition, the EA will be posted on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/region09/border>.

Interested persons, including those who disagree with this proposal, may submit comments to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days from the date this document is issued. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration of this comment period, which ends April 17, 2005. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Tom Konner at the address listed below.

Tom Konner (WTR-4)
U.S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone: (415) 972-3408
Fax: (415) 947-3537
Email: konner.thomas@epa.gov

After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA’s responses, and this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature. If the Regional Administrator signs this FNSI, it will not be re-circulated for review but will be available to any individual upon request.

FINDING

After review of the EA and any comments received, EPA has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project.

Wayne Natri
Regional Administrator

Date