

APRIL 20, 2004

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

In accordance with the environmental review guidelines of the Council on Environmental Quality found at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500, and with the use as guidance of the implementing environmental review procedures of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality on the National Environmental Policy Act, EPA has determined the following action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and may be excluded from further environmental review.

Drinking Water System Improvements Project
for the
City of Goldthwaite
located in
Mills County, Texas

Estimated Total EPA Share: \$ 192,900
Estimated Local Share: \$ 157,000

BACKGROUND

The funding recipient has requested that the project be granted a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and excluded from the environmental review requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Fiscal Year 2004 Appropriations Act for EPA included special Congressional funding for water and wastewater construction projects. The funding recipient was selected to receive funding through these special Congressional appropriations for improvements to wastewater treatment infrastructure. The funding recipient will use the EPA funds along with local monies to finance the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Goldthwaite, Texas, located in eastern Mills County, is in need of improvements to their water treatment plant, water distribution system, and raw water intake. The proposed actions in this project include the rehabilitation of water treatment and pumping facilities, replacement of the raw water intake, and construction of a bore and encasement for a treated water line.

The major component of the water system improvements and the most immediate need is the replacement of the raw water intake structure along the Colorado River. The new intake structure shall consist of a 100 feet pre-fabricated steel encasement and inlet screen enclosing an 8 inch carrier pipe, a 1000 gallons per minute (gpm) submersible pump, and motor can. The steel encasement will be installed adjacent to the existing concrete pad that is currently used to lower the raw water pump to the platform. The City will also purchase a reserve raw water pump to have at their disposal in case the installed pump fails. The existing raw water intake pumps have a capacity of 1000 gpm; therefore, the new intake structure will not increase the capacity of the existing system. The location of the project is shown on the map enclosed as Figure 1.

Other improvements include rehabilitation of a raw water booster pump station located northeast of the raw water intake, rehabilitation of the water treatment plant, and a bore and encasement for a water line located in the City's water distribution system. The booster pump station rehabilitation will involve the re-routing of the piping. The treatment plant improvements will involve the replacement of the existing gravity filters with microfilters and other miscellaneous treatment plant improvements. With the construction of the microfilters the clarifiers will eventually be abandoned. A bore and encasement will be constructed to create a loop in the water distribution system to increase pressure at the City's fire station. The bore will be approximately 100 feet in length with a 10 inch casing that will contain a 6 inch PVC water line. The bore will be located underneath Hwy 183, which runs north and south through the City. Again, these improvements will not provide an increase in treatment capacity for the water distribution system construction conditions upon completion of the project. There are no Environmental Justice concerns associated with the project, as shown in the Environmental Justice maps enclosed as Figures 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Categories of actions which individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, state, local or private actions that do not have a significant adverse effect on the quality of human health and the environment may be excluded from the environmental review requirements of NEPA. The proposed project is consistent with small scale, routine actions that are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.

Adequate documentation was provided to demonstrate that the proposed project will have no adverse direct, indirect, secondary, or cumulative effect on cultural resources, endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, and other environmentally important resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, prime farmlands, and aquifer recharge zones. The information was examined to identify potential extraordinary or exceptional circumstances which would invalidate or prevent the issuance of a CE under 40 CFR Part 6.107(e). Since the project is

exceedingly minor in nature, it has been determined that the issuance of the CE is appropriate for the proposed project.

APPROVAL

The request for a CE in order to implement the proposed project without additional delay is approved without the need for additional environmental review. This approval will be revoked if, at any time, the project no longer meets the eligibility for a CE, new evidence determines that significant local or environmental issues exist, or that Federal, state, local or tribal laws are being or may be violated by implementation of the project. Since the project is expected to have a significant beneficial impact upon the citizens and the environmental resources of the area, the proposed construction project is considered to be an appropriate use of Federal funds.

Responsible Official,

Gerald Fontenot, P.E.
Acting Director
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division

cc: Mike McMahan, Mayor
City of Goldthwaite

J. Kevin Ward, Executive Administrator
Texas Water Development Board

Enclosures