



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

**July 26, 2005**

## **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 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" as guidance, the EPA has determined the following action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and may be excluded from further environmental review.

Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project  
for  
City of Fayetteville, Arkansas

EPA Project Number: XP-97690201-0

Estimated Total EPA Share: \$ 1,060,500  
Estimated Local Share: \$ 867,681

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Fayetteville (City) is located in Washington County in the northwest corner of the state situated along Interstate 540 approximately 192 miles from the City of Little Rock, Arkansas. The City Fayetteville has a population of approximately 58,047 residents. The city has identified some significant infiltration and inflow (I/I) problems from a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES) for the Illinois River Watershed Basins 1-5, 18 and 19 and the White River Mini System 27 that was prepared for the City of Fayetteville in 2002. The study used several methods including smoke testing and cameras to identify defects in the system. In some cases cured in place pipe (CIPP) is to be used to address some of the problems in the line. Open cut or pipe bursting will be used where significant problems exists in the main line that cannot be addressed by the CIPP method. Remaining project segments, including the pipe bursting projects in the Mount Sequoyah area, have been identified as maintenance problems or significant I/I sources. Many of those segments have been televised and it appears pipe bursting by trenchless rehabilitation method is the most effective in reducing I/I.

In some cases, an open cut method will be used to relocate the main away from private residences or other structures. These relocations will be adjacent to existing mains and will not include any undisturbed areas.

Upon completion of the project, it is anticipated there will be significant reduction of I/I problems within the project area. Maintenance of the system should also improve due to the reduced flow and less potential for line blockages to occur. The project areas can be identified looking at the map attached as Figure 1.

The existing collection facilities are in need of improvements to address I/I and to prevent potential blockages and, in turn, sanitary sewer overflows. The proposed improvements needed are primarily trenchless and nearly all measures will be conducted in the same trench or immediately adjacent to the existing facilities. Any deviations from the existing linework will take place in previously disturbed areas. The City of Fayetteville has requested the project be granted a Categorical Exclusion and excluded from the environmental review requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Fiscal Year 2003 Appropriations Act for the EPA include special Congressional funding for water and wastewater construction projects. The funding recipient was selected to receive funding through these special appropriations for the proposed project. The funding recipient will use the EPA funds along with local monies to finance the proposed project. The funding recipient has requested that the project be granted a CE and be excluded from the environmental review and assessment requirements of the NEPA.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City will correct deficiencies to its sanitary sewer collection system as follows: Rehabilitation of 14,024 feet of sanitary sewer main and 42 point repairs in various locations in the City of Fayetteville. The proposed project consist of 84 main segments (manhole to manhole) in the area along with the point repairs. Each segment is replacing facilities and will not have any impact to the degree of treatment or increase the flows to the sewer plant. The changes include increasing pipe diameters from 6-inch to 8-inch in most cases eliminating substandard 6-inch sewer mains. One segment is being improved from 8-inch to a 15-inch line.

All construction activities will occur in previously disturbed areas in the same trench path or immediately adjacent to existing lines. All repair work will be conducted in the public right-of-way or within service areas already controlled by the funding recipient. The project will not require additional land acquisition. There are no Environmental Justice concerns associated with the project as shown on the enclosed index and maps showing the location of the project.

## **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 the human 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 wastewater rehabilitation 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 by significantly improving the reliability of the equipment, the proposed construction project is considered to be an appropriate use of Federal funds.

Responsible Official,

/s/

John Blevins  
Director  
Compliance Assurance and  
Enforcement Division

cc: J. Randy Young, Executive Director,  
Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Bob Davis, Water and Wastewater Director, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Enclosure