Request for Categorical Exclusion from Substantive Environmental Review (CE)

Instructions:
1. Provide the WIF number for the project for which you are requesting consideration.
2. Fill out the Applicant's formal name. For a county authority, please specify which county. "County Water District VII" is not a complete name; "ABC County Water District VII" is a complete name.
3. Check all applicable exclusions. Failure to check an applicable exclusion will result in the rejection of your request.
4. Either the "authorized representative" or the Professional Engineer must sign the form. If the Professional Engineer signs the form, the Professional Engineer must seal the form.
5. Submit as part of the ER/EID, following the "Factsheet: Instructions for Applicants Seeking a Federal Categorical Exclusion" available at http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wi/drinkingwater/factsheets.

WIF No.: 1924
Applicant: Town of Valdese
Project Name: St. Germain Avenue Water System Improvements Project

Project Description
This project proposes to replace 1,351 LF of existing 6" cast iron waterline with new 6" ductile iron waterline and replace 470 LF of existing 2" galvanized waterline with new 2" PVC waterline.

I certify that the project described in the application for state-supplied financial assistance meets all of the applicable general criteria listed in 15A NCAC 01C .0408 (1), and consists solely of activities exempted under the specific criteria of 15A NCAC 01C .0408 (2) checked below:

Please check all the exclusion(s) that apply:
☐ Potable water systems including the construction or rehabilitation of wells for water supply purposes with associated groundwater withdrawals of less than 1,000,000 gallons per day where such withdrawals are not expected to cause alterations in established land use patterns, or degradation of groundwater or surface water quality. [15A NCAC 01C .0408 (2)(c)].

☐ Improvements to water treatment plants that involve less than 1,000,000 gallons per day added capacity and total design withdrawal less than one-fifth of the 7-day, 10-year low flow of the contributing stream; [15A NCAC 01C .0408 (2)(b)(ii)]
☐ Improvements not intended to add capacity to the facility; [15A NCAC 01C .0408 (2)(b)(ii)]
☐ Installation of waterlines and appurtenances in existing rights-of-way for streets or utilities, or water lines and appurtenances less than five miles in length and having only directional bore stream crossings or no stream crossings; [NCGS. § 113A-12(1) & 15A NCAC 01C .0408 (2)(b)(iii)]
☐ Construction of water tanks, or booster pumping or secondary or remote disinfection stations; [15A NCAC 01C .0408 (2)(b)(iv)]
☐ Dams less than 25 feet in height and having less than 50 acre-feet or storage capacity [15A NCAC 01C .0408 (2)(b)] (Notes: #1 Dam projects are ineligible for federally recognized CE. #2 Only off-stream raw water reservoirs for pre-treatment purposes are eligible for SRF funding.)
I further certify that the project does not have a significant direct, indirect, cumulative or secondary adverse environmental impact as described in 15A NCAC 01C .0306, and that none of the following descriptions apply to the project:

- the proposed activity may have a potential for significant adverse effects on wetlands; surface waters such as rivers, streams and estuaries; parklands; game lands; prime agricultural or forest lands; or areas of local, state or federally recognized scenic, recreational, archaeological, ecological, scientific research or historical value, including secondary impacts; or would threaten a species identified on the Department of Interior's or the state's threatened and endangered species lists; [15A NCAC 01C .0306 (1)] or

- the proposed activity could cause changes in industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural, or silvicultural land use concentrations or distributions which would be expected to create adverse water quality, instream flow, air quality, or ground water impacts; or affect long-term recreational benefits, fish, wildlife, or their natural habitats; [15A NCAC 01C .0306 (2)] or

- the proposed activity has secondary impacts, or is part of cumulative impacts, not generally covered in the approval process for the state action, and that may result in a potential risk to human health or the environment; [15A NCAC 01C .0306 (3)].

Therefore, I believe our project is eligible for consideration for a CE from the State's environmental assessment review processes and request that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) concur with this determination.

I understand that DENR may determine that the proposed activity is of such an unusual nature or has such widespread implications that a concern for its environmental effects has been identified by DENR or expressed to DENR. I understand that, in this case, the activity may be ineligible for CE under 15A NCAC 01C .0306 (4).

☐ We are applying for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan and include the required comment letters. OR
☐ We are not applying for the DWSRF.

David W. Poore, PE, CPESC
Authorized Representative or Engineer Printed Name

[

Authorized Representative or Engineer Signature & Date
Project Engineer

Authorized Representative or Engineer Title

State Use Only (Review)

Reviewed by: DMG Date: 6-21-2017
Departmental Approval: [Signature] Date: 7-11-2017
# Review Checklist: Request for Categorical Exclusion for DWSRF Projects

**Applicant:** TOWN OF VALDESE  
**WIF #** 1924

### Required for all Requests for Categorical Exclusion (CEs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross-Cutting Authority</th>
<th>Responsible Agency/Action(s) Taken/Dates Actions Taken</th>
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|                                                                                        | □ Blanket letter from applicant OK?  
|                                                                                        | ☒ Comments from agency OK? 4-27-17                                                                                     |
|                                                                                        | □ By "no permits required" comment letter from USACOE  
|                                                                                        | ☒ By sealed & signed "no jurisdiction" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer  
|                                                                                        | ☒ By sealed & signed "no permits required" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer 6-28-17  
|                                                                                        | □ By sealed & signed "all permits in place" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer  
| Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990                                         | US Fish & Wildlife Service for signoff  
|                                                                                        | ☒ Comments from USFWS OK 4-18-17                                                                                       |
| Endangered Species Act, Pub. L. 93-205, as amended                                    | DWSRF Funding Unit and the local PWSS Regional Engineer  
| Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Pub. L. 85-624, as amended                       | Based on responses given by PWSS-RE to those questions included on the EJ questionnaire, which was provided to the RE during the priority review period: |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L. 90-542, as amended                                 | 1. Does the potentially affected community include an EJ community?  
|                                                                                        | ☐ Yes ☐ No                                                                                                           |
| Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898                                          | 2. Are there significant environmental impacts likely to fall disproportionately on minority and/or low-income members of the community and/or tribal resources?  
|                                                                                        | ☐ Yes ☒ No                                                                                                          |
| Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Pub. L. 97-348                                         | Division of Coastal Management (DCM)  
|                                                                                        | 1. Is this project located in any of the following counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington?  
|                                                                                        | ☒ Yes ☐ No                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                       | 2. If the answer to question #1 is "Yes", then DCM must find if the project is in an Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) established by the Coastal Resources Commission. Is it in one of these AECs?  
|                                                                                        | ☐ Yes ☒ No  
| Coastal Zone Management Act, Pub. L 92-583, as amended                                | DCM Response Date:                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                       | 3. If the answer to question #2 is "Yes", then the project requires a CAMA permit. Does the project have a CAMA permit?  
|                                                                                        | ☐ Yes ☒ No  
|                                                                                       | CAMA Permit Date:                                                                                                    |

☐ Signed Request for CE posted on Web? (optional)
April 27, 2017

David Poore
West Consultants, PLLC
405 South Sterling Street
Morganton, NC 28655

Re: Saint Germaine Avenue Water System Improvements, Valdese, WIF-1924, Burke County, GS 17-0644

Dear Mr. Poore:

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2017, concerning the above project.

There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed project area. Based on our knowledge of the area, it is unlikely that any archaeological resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the project. We, therefore, recommend that no archaeological investigation be conducted in connection with this project.

The project, as proposed, will not affect the National Register-listed Waldensian Presbyterian Church, BK0018.

These comments are made in accord with G.S. 121-12(a) and Executive Order XVI. If you have questions regarding them, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

Renee Gledhill-Earley

Ramona M. Bartos
Mr. David W. Poore  
West Consultants, PLLC  
405 South Sterling Street  
Morganton, North Carolina 28655

Dear Mr. Poore:

Subject: Proposed St. Germaine Avenue Water System Improvements, Valdese, Burke County, North Carolina

We received your letter dated March 27, 2017 (received March 30, 2017), requesting our comments on the subject project. The following comments are provided in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (Act).

We have no objections to the proposed project. According to our records and a review of the information you provided, no federally listed species or their habitats occur in the immediate project area. Therefore, we believe the requirements under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act are fulfilled. However, obligations under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered, (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered in this review, or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat is determined that may be affected by the identified action.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. If we can be of assistance or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Allen Ratzlaff of our staff at 828/2583939, Ext. 229. In any future correspondence concerning this project, please reference our Log Number 4-2-17-310.

cc:  
Olivia Munzer, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, olivia.munzer@ncwildlife.org  
Mr. Vincent Tomaino, Division of Water Infrastructure, 1633 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1633
ADDENDUM TO

TOWN OF VALDESE
ST. GERMAINE AVENUE WATER PROJECT
WIF - 1924

ENGINEERING REPORT

I, David W. Poore, PE, CPESC, as designer of this project make the following statement:

None of the construction activities or facilities themselves is to occur in a stream, lake, or other body of water or in wetlands. This project includes no stream disturbances or impacts.

I have determined that no US Army Corps of Engineer Permit is Required.

WEST CONSULTANTS, PLLC

David W. Poore, PE, CPESC
June 26, 2017