

Request for Categorical Exclusion from Substantive Environmental Review

Instructions:

1. Provide the DEH number for the project for which you are requesting consideration.
2. Please fill out the applicant's formal name. If you are a county authority, please specify which county. "County Water District VII" is not an acceptable name; "ABC County Water District VII" is acceptable.
3. Please 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 responsible for the PER must sign the form. If the PE signs the form, it must include the PE seal.

DEH No.:

1813

Applicant:

District VII - Richland Township Water and Sewer District of Beaufort County

Project
Description

District VII - Richland Township Water and Sewer District of Beaufort County proposes to construct an Automatic Meter Reading system. No expansion of service area is proposed. Construction is confined to public rights-of-way or sites under control by the district.

We 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)].

Other potable water systems including the following:

- 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)(i)]
- 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)(h)] (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.)

We 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

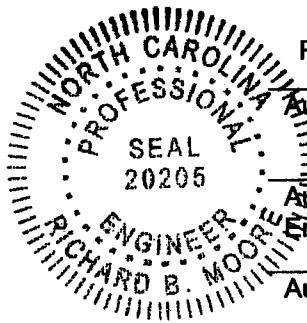
- the proposed activity could cause changes in industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural, or silvicultural land use concentrations or distributions which would be expected to create adverse water quality, instream flow, air quality, or ground water impacts; or affect long-term recreational benefits, 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, we believe our project is eligible for consideration for a CE from the State's environmental assessment review processes and request that the State of North Carolina concur with our determination.

We understand that the State of North Carolina 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. We understand that, in this case, the activity may be ineligible for CE under 15A NCAC 01C .0306 (4).

We recognize that this request supplies information sufficient **only** for state-financed assistance under the 15A NCAC 01J and 01L rules. If we are applying (either additionally or exclusively) for federally-financed assistance under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, additional steps (including obtaining comment letters and publicizing the requested action) apply.



Richard B. Moore, P.E.

Authorized Representative Printed Name

[Signature] 9/25/2013

Authorized Representative Signature & Date

Engineer, McDavid Associates, Inc.

Authorized Representative Title

State Use Only (Review)

Reviewed by: *[Signature]* 12/5/13

Department Approval: *Vincent Jude Tomano* 12/5/13
eff 10/29/2013

Categorical Exclusion Review Checklist for DWSRF Projects

Applicant Beaufort County VII - Richland Township WIF # 1813
 PWSID NC 0407040 P&S Serial # N/A

Required for all Categorical Exclusions (CE's)

Cross Cutting Authority	Responsible Agency, Action(s) Taken & Dates
Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, Pub. L. 86-523, as amended	North Carolina Cultural Resources for signoff. <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket letter from applicant OK? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments from agency OK? <u>9/16/2013</u> <i>received by LFS 10/28/2013</i>
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, PL 89-665, as amended	
Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990	USACE <input type="checkbox"/> By "no permits required" comment letter from USACOE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed "no jurisdiction" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed "no permits required" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer <u>9/25/2013</u> <i>rec'd 9/30</i> <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed "all permits in place" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer _____
Endangered Species Act, Pub. L. 93-205, as amended	USFWS for signoff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments from USFWS OK <u>9/26/2013</u> <i>rec'd 9/30 10/28</i> <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed blanket letter from applicant's engineer for project scopes <u>that don't require comments</u> (see factsheet) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed blanket letter from applicant's engineer after 30 days pass without USFWS comment _____
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Pub. L. 85-624, as amended	
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L. 90-542, as amended	
Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898	Loans and Grants group and Regional Engineer Based on the discussions with the regional engineer during the priority review period: <u>AMR projects don't raise EJ questions</u> 1. Does the potentially affected community include an EJ community? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>DWI - Determination</i> 2. Are there significant environmental impacts likely to fall disproportionately on minority and/or low-income members of the community and/or tribal resources? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>objt</i>
Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Pub. L. 97-348	Division of Coastal Management (DCM) 1. Is this project located in any of the following counties: <u>Beaufort</u> , Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>No CAMA permit required</i> 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 AEC's? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No DCM Response Date: _____ <i>with existing easements</i> 3. If the answer to question #2 is "Yes", then the project requires a CAMA permit. Does the project have a CAMA permit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No CAMA Permit Date: <u>(A/R)</u>
Coastal Zone Management Act, Pub. L. 92-583, as amended	

CE posted on Web? (optional) _____



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Raleigh Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

September 26, 2013

RECEIVED
OCT 28 2013
Infrastructure Finance Section

Richard B. Moore
McDavid Associates, Inc.
PO Drawer 49
Farmville, NC 27828

Re: Water District VII- Richland Township Water & Sewer District of Beaufort County- Water System Improvements

Dear Mr. Moore:

This letter is to inform you that a list of all federally-protected endangered and threatened species with known occurrences in North Carolina is now available on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) web page at <http://www.fws.gov/raleigh>. Therefore, if you have projects that occur within the Raleigh Field Office's area of responsibility (see attached county list), you no longer need to contact the Raleigh Field Office for a list of federally-protected species.

Our web page contains a complete and frequently updated list of all endangered and threatened species protected by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)(Act), and a list of federal species of concern¹ that are known to occur in each county in North Carolina.

Section 7 of the Act requires that all federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representative), in consultation with the Service, insure that any action federally authorized, funded, or carried out by such agencies is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any federally-listed endangered or threatened species. A biological assessment or evaluation may be prepared to fulfill that requirement and in determining whether additional consultation with the Service is necessary. In addition to the federally-protected species list, information on the species' life histories and habitats and information on completing a biological assessment or evaluation and can be found on our web page at <http://www.fws.gov/raleigh>. Please check the web site often for updated information or changes.

¹ The term "federal species of concern" refers to those species which the Service believes might be in need of concentrated conservation actions. Federal species of concern receive no legal protection and their designation does not necessarily imply that the species will eventually be proposed for listing as a federally endangered or threatened species. However, we recommend that all practicable measures be taken to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to federal species of concern.

If your project contains suitable habitat for any of the federally-listed species known to be present within the county where your project occurs, the proposed action has the potential to adversely affect those species. As such, we recommend that surveys be conducted to determine the species' presence or absence within the project area. The use of North Carolina Natural Heritage program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys.

If you determine that the proposed action may affect (i.e., likely to adversely affect or not likely to adversely affect) a federally-protected species, you should notify this office with your determination, the results of your surveys, survey methodologies, and an analysis of the effects of the action on listed species, including consideration of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, before conducting any activities that might affect the species. If you determine that the proposed action will have no effect (i.e., no beneficial or adverse, direct or indirect effect) on federally listed species, then you are not required to contact our office for concurrence (unless an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared). However, you should maintain a complete record of the assessment, including steps leading to your determination of effect, the qualified personnel conducting the assessment, habitat conditions, site photographs, and any other related articles.

With regard to the above-referenced project, we offer the following remarks. Our comments are submitted pursuant to, and in accordance with, provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

Based on the information provided and other information available, it appears that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any federally-listed endangered or threatened species, their formally designated critical habitat, or species currently proposed for listing under the Act at these sites. We believe that the requirements of section 7(a)(2) of the Act have been satisfied for your project. Please remember that obligations under section 7 consultation 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 determined that may be affected by the identified action.

However, the Service is concerned about the potential impacts the proposed action might have on aquatic species. Aquatic resources are highly susceptible to sedimentation. Therefore, we recommend that all practicable measures be taken to avoid adverse impacts to aquatic species, including implementing directional boring methods and stringent sediment and erosion control measures. An erosion and sedimentation control plan should be submitted to and approved by the North Carolina Division of Land Resources, Land Quality Section prior to construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls should be installed and maintained between the construction site and any nearby down-gradient surface waters. In addition, we recommend maintaining natural, vegetated buffers on all streams and creeks adjacent to the project site.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has developed a Guidance Memorandum (a copy can be found on our website at (<http://www.fws.gov/raleigh>) to address and mitigate secondary and cumulative impacts to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources and water quality. We recommend that you consider this document in the development of your projects and in completing an initiation package for consultation (if necessary).

We hope you find our web page useful and informative and that following the process described above will reduce the time required, and eliminate the need, for general correspondence for species' lists. If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Ellis of this office at (919) 856-4520 ext. 26.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pete Benjamin".

Pete Benjamin
Field Supervisor



RECEIVED
OCT 28 2013
Infrastructure Review Section

**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

September 16, 2013

Richard Moore
McDavid Associates, Inc.
PO Drawer 49
Farmville, NC 27828

Re: Water System Improvements, District VII, Richland Township Water and Sewer District of Beaufort County, Beaufort County, ER 13-1874

Dear Mr. Moore:

Thank you for your letter of August 26, 2013, concerning the above project.

We have conducted a review of the project and are aware of no historic resources which would be affected by the project. Therefore, we have no comment on the project as proposed.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or renee.gledhill-earley@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

Renee Gledhill-Earley

for Ramona M. Bartos

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT

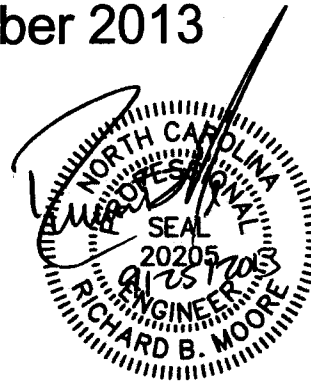
DISTRICT VII - RICHLAND TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

Beaufort County Regional Water System



DWSRF APPLICATION - PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SECTION 2013 AUTOMATIC METER READING SYSTEM

September 2013



Prepared By:
Richard B. Moore, P.E.
McDavid Associates, Inc.
P.O. Drawer 49
Farmville, NC 27828
Tel: (252) 753-2139
Fax: (252) 753-7220
Email: rbm@mcdavid-inc.com

7. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PRESENT

Project activities impact existing water services. No new construction is proposed. Consistent with Public Water Supply Section requirements, no stream crossings will occur as a result of the proposed project. No US Army Corps of Engineers permit will be required to accommodate construction activities.

8. QUANTIFICATION OF WATER LOSS REDUCTION

Based on the water use statistics from the existing meters that have not been changed to automatic meter reading devices, the current annual water loss is estimated to be 13.878 million gallons. Replacement of meters will result in an increase of recorded water usage by active water customers.

9. QUANTIFICATION OF ANNUAL NET FUEL SAVINGS

The BCWD VII service area presently consists of approximately 110 miles of waterlines. Current manual meter reading requires the use of three (3) vehicles. Manual meter reading requires ten (10) days per month. Total combined mileage used for manual meter reading activities is estimated at 275 miles per month (110 miles x 2.5 to account for repetitive use of roads to access billing areas over the 10 day period and required re-recording of meters due to initial registration mistakes). This equates to 3,300 miles per year for meter reading activities.

Installing automatic meter reading devices will eliminate the need for vehicle operation. Automatic meter reading results in an annual reduction in mileage of 275 miles per month (3,300 miles per year).

An annual reduction in mileage driven in vehicles can be converted to fuel savings (and cost savings). Conventional meter reading (manual) requires slow operation of trucks that often include frequent stops. The average fuel economy of trucks performing manual meter reading is estimated to be 6 miles per gallon. Automatic meter reading eliminates the need for vehicle operation. The calculated fuel savings is estimated to be $(3,300 \text{ miles} / 6 \text{ miles/gal}) = 550 \text{ gallons}$. Based upon the average regular unleaded fuel cost of \$3.59 per gallon, annual fuel cost savings will be \$1,974.50.