

Request for Categorical Exclusion from Environmental Assessment Review Processes

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.: Not yet assigned 1275

Applicant: Macon County, North Carolina

Project Description

Installation of approximately 18,100LF of new 12-inch and 8-inch water line, ground level storage tank and booster pump station to extend water service to two (2) community water system currently using failing groundwater wells. Water service will be extended from the Town of Franklin public water system. All work is to take place within existing NCDOT and Town utility rights-of-ways and/or property controlled by the Town. The project will not add additional source capacity to the system and will take place in previously disturbed areas.

Based upon review of the categorical exclusion (CE) criteria listed under 15A NCAC 1C .0504 for non-major activities, the project described in the application for state supplied financial assistance covers a proposed activity that falls within the parameters set out below:

Please Check all the Exclusion(s) that apply

- Potable water systems including the construction of new wells for water supply purposes [1C .0504 (3)(b)(i)] with associated groundwater withdrawals of less than 1,000,000 gallons per day where such withdrawals are not expected to cause a significant alteration in established land use patterns, or degradation of groundwater or surface water quality [1C .0504 (3)(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 design withdrawal less than one-fifth of the 7-day, 10-year low flow of the contributing stream [1C .0504 (3)(b)(ii)];
- Improvements not intended to add capacity to the facility [1C .0504 (3)(b)(iii)];
- Installation of water lines in proposed or existing rights-of-way for streets or utilities, or new water lines less than five miles in length (Note: if the project involves more than 5 miles (26,400 linear feet) of new lines even if constructed in existing right of way, **it is not eligible for federally recognized CE. In this case you must submit an environmental assessment to be considered for the DWSRF program.**) [1C .0504 (3)(b)(iv)];
- Construction of water tanks, or booster pumping or re-chlorination pump stations [1C .0504 (3)(b) (v)]; and/or
- Dams less than 25 feet in height and having less than 50 acre-feet or storage capacity [1C .0504 (3)(i)]. (Notes: #1 Dam projects are ineligible for federally recognized CE. #2 Only

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off-stream raw water reservoirs for pre-treatment purposes are eligible for DWSRF 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 1C .0503, and that none of the following descriptions apply to the project:

The proposed activity may have a potential for significant adverse effects on wetlands, parklands, prime or unique agricultural lands, or areas of recognized scenic, recreational, archaeological, or historical value including indirect effects; or would threaten a habitat identified on the Department of Interior's or the state's threatened and endangered species lists [1C .0503 (1)].

The proposed activity could cause significant changes in industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural, or silvicultural land use concentrations or distributions which would be expected to create adverse water quality, air quality, or ground water impacts; or affect long-term recreational benefits, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats [1C .0503 (2)].

The proposed activity has indirect effect, or is part of cumulative effects, 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 [1C .0503 (3)].

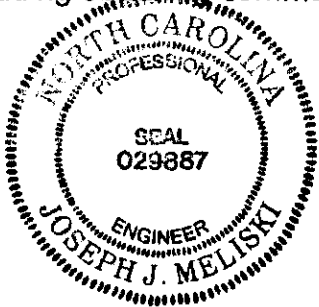
We certify that both of the following descriptions apply to the project:

- any land disturbing activities within a High Quality Water Zone or Trout Water Buffer Zones will disturb less than five acres at any one time [1C .0504(3)(j)], and
- any new building will have a footprint of less than 10,000 square feet, is not on the National Register as an archaeological site, and will not be used to store hazardous waste [1C .0504(3)(l)].

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 an uncommon concern for its environmental effects is expressed to the agency. We understand that, in this case, the activity may be ineligible for CE under 1C .0503 (4).

We recognize that this request supplies information sufficient **only** for state-financed assistance under the 15A NCAC 1J and 1L 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 action) apply.



J. Meliski, P.E., McGill Associates

Authorized Representative Printed Name

J. Meliski 3/3/09

Authorized Representative Signature & Date
Project Engineer

Authorized Representative Title

State Use Only (Review)

Reviewed by: *SIA*

Department Approval: *[Signature]* 4/21/09