

**Request for Categorical Exclusion
from Substantive Environmental Review
For Drinking Water Projects Only**

Note: Please expedite. This project is being submitted for funding through the Economic Stimulus Bill.

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.: 01-20-010

1277

Applicant: Town of Murphy, North Carolina

**Project
Description**

The proposed project generally consists of the direct replacement of existing water lines in the downtown area of Murphy, North Carolina as well as the upgrade of existing water meters within the service area. The existing water lines are over 100-years old and have reached the end of their service life. The water lines have a history of frequent line breaks, substandard residual pressure and significantly contribute to total unaccounted for system water loss. The water meters will be replaced to remedy inaccurate water metering, reduce leaks, and improve overall system operation and preventative maintenance.

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 1C .0408 (1), and consists solely of activities exempted under the specific criteria of 1C .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. [1C .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; [1C .0408 (2)(b)(i)]
- Improvements not intended to add capacity to the facility; [1C .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; [N.C.G.S. §113A-12(1) & 1C .0408 (2)(b)(iii)]
- Construction of water tanks, or booster pumping or secondary or remote disinfection stations; [1C .0408 (2)(b)(iv)]

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- Dams less than 25 feet in height and having less than 50 acre-feet or storage capacity [1C .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 DWSRF funding.)

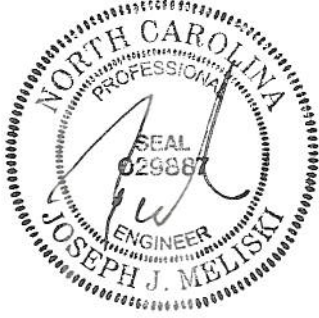
We further certify that the project does not have a significant direct, indirect, cumulative or secondary adverse environmental impact as described in 15A NCAC 1C .0306, and that none of the following descriptions apply to the project:

- 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; [1C .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; [1C .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; [1C .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 1C .0306 (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 requested action) apply.



J. Meliski, P.E.

Authorized Representative Printed Name

Authorized Representative Signature & Date
Project Manager, McGill Associates, P.A.

Authorized Representative Title

State Use Only (Review)

Reviewed by: Craig Carlier

Department Approval: [Signature]