

# 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.: 1681

PWSID: 02-93-020

Applicant: Town of Norlina

## Project Description

The Town of Norlina is experiencing significant water and sewer revenue loss in their water distribution and sewer collection system. It is estimated that the Town is experiencing 18% total water revenue loss and 16% total sewer loss within their entire systems. This large loss is mainly due to substantially malfunctioning water meters which are used to bill the customers for water and sewer usages. In recognition of the value of this precious natural resource, the Town desires to transform their current water metering program into a more efficient and environmentally friendly program that will help to conserve water, drive down customer cost and reduce its carbon foot print.

The existing meters that are currently used in the Town's water distribution system are made up of many different makes and models ranging from manufactures such as Master Meter, Neptune, Sensus, Rockwell, and Precision. According to most all meter manufactures the useful life of water meters is expected to be twenty (20) years. It is calculated that 426 meters in the Town's system have exceeded their service life expectancy. In addition these meters are diminishing in meter accuracy. The majority of the meters in the water system are recording inaccurate water usage. These inaccurate readings, given by the substantially malfunctioning water meters, provide misleading information regarding water usage and result in unaccounted for water loss, billing inaccuracies and loss in revenue for the water and sewer system.

Accurate meter reading is an important indirect water efficiency measure. The Town of Norlina is seeking grant funding for installation of new water meters and equipment that's equipped with automated meter reading (AMB) technology. ARB Fixed Based system provides time-synchronized reads at midnight and 24-hour customer usage profile data for every customer under the network. When the ARM FixedBase AMI network is used, intermittent and continuous leak status data is communicated to the host software. Utility customer service personnel can simply pull up a customer account, see leak conditions and alert the customer. The Meter Replacement Program will allow Norlina to obtain timely data from the field as well as daily time-synchronized snapshots of readings from all meters. Access to this data will support future leak detection and conservation initiatives and eliminate off-cycle readings. With new system wide radio read meters the town will not only drive down its revenue loss on the water and sewer systems preventing the continued rise in rates due to inaccuracies, but it will also drive down the use of fuel, vehicle emission, vehicle wear and tear, and reduce the carbon footprint generated from reading & re-reading meters.

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:

- X 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:

- X 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)]
- X Improvements not intended to add capacity to the facility; [15A NCAC 01C .0408 (2)(b)(ii)]
- X 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)]
- X Construction of water tanks, or booster pumping or secondary or remote disinfection stations; [15A NCAC 01C .0408 (2)(b)(iv)]
- X 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.

**Dwight Pearce**

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Authorized Representative Printed Name

*Dwight Pearce 9-28-11*

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Authorized Representative Signature & Date

**Mayor**

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Authorized Representative Title

State Use Only (Review)

Reviewed by: 

Date: 10/11/11

Departmental Approval: Vincent J. Tomarin

Date: 20 March 2012