



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Donald R. van der Vaart  
Secretary

23 June 2015

Mr. W. Lane Bailey, City Manager  
City of Lenoir  
P. O. Box 958  
Lenoir, North Carolina 28645

**SUBJECT:** Engineering Report Approval  
Project Number: WIF-1875  
Applicant: City of Lenoir  
Caldwell County

Dear Mr. Bailey:

The Division of Water Infrastructure has completed its review and approved the subject engineering report. The proposed project includes the rehabilitation of the dual-media filters including a new air-scour system, new bulk chemical storage tanks, new chemical feed system, improvements to the Cahah's Mountain high service pump station, renovations to the plant's laboratory, and the replacement of sludge removal equipment at the sedimentation basin.

In accordance with G.S. 120-157.1 through 157.9, enacted on June 24, 2011, local government units with projects that require debt to be issued greater than \$1,000,000 that must go before the Local Government Commission must submit a letter to Committee Chairs, Committee Assistant, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly at least 45 days prior to presentation before the Local Government Commission. You are responsible for submitting this letter. Additionally, a copy should be submitted to Mark Hubbard of the Grant Management Unit upon receipt of this approval letter.

Please note that you must meet all the milestones below to maintain assurance of funding under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). If you do not meet any of these milestones, you must reapply if you wish to continue to seek DWSRF funding for this project. We accept applications once per year and fund projects based on priority and availability of funds.

Bid and Design Package must be submitted by:	April 1, 2016
Bid and Design Package must be approved by:	August 1, 2016
Division of Water Infrastructure's Authority to Award must be issued by:	December 1, 2016
Construction contract(s) must be executed by:	January 3, 2017

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If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact David Giachini, P.E. at (919) 707-9050 or david.giachini@ncdenr.gov.

Sincerely,



Seth Robertson, P.E., Chief  
State Revolving Fund Section

Enclosure: Categorical Exclusion

cc: Joel Whitford, P.E., McGill Associates, P.A., Consulting Engineer  
Mark Hubbard, P.E., NCDENR (email)  
Susan Kubacki, NCDENR (email w/Enclosure)  
SRF File (EREID\_AL)

# 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.: 1875

Applicant: City of Lenoir

Project Name: Water Treatment Plant Improvements

## Project Description

The project involves improvements to the City of Lenoir's Water Treatment Plant and generally includes filter rehabilitations, chemical storage facility, chemical feed point relocation in new vault, high service pump station improvements, laboratory renovations, improvements to the sedimentation basin sludge removal system, and related piping, valves, controls, electrical, site work, paving, and appurtenances.

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)].

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.)

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.

Joel A. Whitford, PE – McGill Associates, PA

Authorized Representative or Engineer Printed Name

*Joel A. Whitford* 4/29/15

Authorized Representative or Engineer Signature & Date

Project Manager – McGill Associates, PA

Authorized Representative or Engineer Title



State Use Only (Review)

Reviewed by: *[Signature]*

Date: 12-JUNE-2015

Departmental Approval: *Vincent Jacob Tomasso*

Date: 23 June 2015