

ROY COOPER
Governor

MARY PENNY KELLEY
Secretary

SHADI ESKAF
Director



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

October 31, 2024

Mr. Paul Weeks, Jr., PE, Executive Director of Utilities
City of Sanford
225 East Weatherspoon Street
Sanford, North Carolina 27330

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact
TriRiver Water (Formerly City of
Sanford)
Pittsboro Force Main and Lift
Station Amendment No.2
PROJECT #: CS370413-06

Dear Mr. Weeks:

This is to inform you that the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and the Environmental Assessment have been submitted to the State Clearinghouse. The documents will be advertised for thirty (30) calendar days in the N.C. Environmental Bulletin. Advertising the FONSI is required prior to a local unit of government receiving financial support from the State Revolving Loan program. You will be informed of any significant comment or public objection when the advertisement period is completed.

A copy of the documents is transmitted for your record. The documents should be made available to the public.

If there are any questions, please contact me at (919) 707-9048.

Sincerely,
Kavitha Ambikadevi

Kavitha Ambikadevi, Chief
Water Infrastructure Fund Section
Division of Water Infrastructure



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Water Infrastructure
512 N. Salisbury Street | 1633 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1633
919.707.9160

SB

Attachment (all cc's)

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(cdavis@thewootencompany.com)
Sydney Tickle Rodts, Freese and Nichols, Inc. (Syney.Rodts@freese.com)
Adrian Eaton (via email)
Mark Hubbard, PE, DWI (via email)
Susan Kubacki (via email)
DWQ – RRO
SRF File (CWSRF ER/EID)



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MEMORANDUM

To: Kadisha Molyneaux
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse
Department of Administration

From: Kavitha Ambikadevi, PE
Section Chief
Water Infrastructure Fund Section

Date: October 31, 2024

Subject: Amendment to FONSI for Town of Pittsboro (TriRiver Water)
Force Main and Lift Station ER/EID Amendment No.2
CWSRF Project No. CS370413-06
SCH File # 22-E-4300-0258

The purpose of this memorandum is to amend the Finding of No Significant Impact/Environmental Assessment (FONSI/EA) for the Town of Pittsboro's Wastewater Treatment System Improvements Project (State Clearinghouse Number 22-E-4300-0258). As the Lead Agency, the Division of Water Infrastructure requests that the State Environmental Review Clearinghouse post this document for 30 days as an informational update for interested parties. Information regarding the proposed amendment to the FONSI/EA is discussed below.

The original FONSI/EA included a three -pump lift station and headworks at the Pittsboro Wastewater Treatment Plant and an 18- in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) force main (FM). The original lift station design is limited to a maximum capacity of 3 million gallons per day peak flow and the 18- in force main does not provide for additional anticipated flows.

Rapid industrial, commercial, and residential growth in Chatham and Lee Counties necessitates expansion of the region's water and wastewater infrastructure. The formation of TriRiver Water, a merger of the Town of Pittsboro and the City of Sanford's public utilities, indicated a shift to regional – utility management. Changes to adequately account for additional anticipated growth in the TriRiver regional service area are beyond what was accounted for in the previous FONSI/EA.

The proposed amendment changes the original 18-in PVC to either 24-in or 36-in High density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. High density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe was selected as a cost- effective and time -efficient alternative to PVC pipe in large part due to its lower material and installation costs. The expected cost savings are estimated to be 6.4 million



dollars. HDPE also has shorter delivery and installation times relative to PVC. The installation methods, regarding open cut or trenchless, remain unchanged. The larger pipe diameter requires a larger bending radius for all the horizontal directional drill (HDD) crossings. Consequently, the total trenchless crossing length will increase by 3, 260 linear feet (LF) resulting in a reduction in the limit and type of disturbances. Some HDD crossings have been changed to a bore and jack method to address constructability concerns. Any alignment revisions that arise from the HDD extensions occur in the previously studied project corridor and rights of way (ROW). These revisions will not cause further impacts. The deciding factor between the 24-in 36- in HDPE alternate will be the cost.

Lift Station Revisions

The revised Pittsboro Lift Station (PLS) is designed for a future capacity increase, as needed. The station will initially have two pumps with a firm capacity of 2- MGD ADF. The PLS is expandable to four pumps with a firm capacity of 5- MGD ADF. The revised lift station will be constructed within the bounds of the original planned site. The originally planned decommissioning work at Pittsboro WWTP will be deferred approximately 15 years and removed from this project to allow the plant to continue to operate at its current permitted capacity. The anticipated cost for the decommissioning of the WWTP is expected to be minimal and will be funded at a later date. Foregoing the work to decommission the WWTP decreases the limit and type of environmental disturbances by 0.77 acres.

Little Buffalo Lift Station Expansion

The previous ER/EID document described an agreement between Pittsboro and the City of Sanford to receive the Pittsboro FM discharge at Little Buffalo LS. Any increase in discharge from Pittsboro LS to Little Buffalo LS is now accounted for by the TriRiver Water merger. Little Buffalo LS is currently undergoing expansion with Substantial Completion expected in Fall 2025, ahead of Pittsboro LS and FM completion. The station will have three pumps with a permitted firm capacity of 9. 29- MGD ADF. The lift station is expandable to four pumps with a firm capacity of 12. 29- MGD ADF.

Regionalization

As of July 1, 2024, the Town of Pittsboro and the City of Sanford have merged utility systems under the new TriRiver Water service. All present and future water and wastewater projects within the Sanford-Pittsboro- Chatham County areas will be conducted by TriRiver Water.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigative Measures

The proposed 24- in or 36-in FM eliminates approximately 3, 260 LF of open cut force main reducing the overall environmental impact. The 36- in FM alternate eliminates approximately 6, 012 LF of open cut force main reducing the overall environmental impact. The reduction in the lift station' s area of disturbance also lessens the overall environmental impact. The proposed drill extensions do not pose permanent direct, secondary, or cumulative impacts to the 100-year

floodway, floodplains, or topography. There are fewer impacts due to the trenchless crossing extensions and all of the same mitigation measures will be followed. Regarding land use, the overall purpose of the project is not changed by the force main or lift station revisions. An additional increase in development density beyond the projected growth will not be encouraged due to the proposed changes. For forest resources, the number and type of trees affected at the lift station site will be the same as the originally proposed project. The number of trees impacted along the route is expected to decrease with the increased trenchless crossing distance. For water resources, as the proposed lift station site is approximately 0.77 acres smaller than the originally proposed site, the risk of surface water impact is inherently smaller as there is a reduced amount of disturbed area. Similarly, increasing the lengths of the trenchless crossings reduces the amount of disturbed area.

Mitigative measures will include restoring construction areas to pre-project conditions, implementing erosion and sediment control measures, minimizing clearing to only what is necessary, dust control measures as needed, limiting construction to daytime working areas, utilizing mufflers and emission controls on construction equipment. The analysis of the original proposed project included extensive review of secondary and cumulative impacts (SCI) and approval of a SCI document as part of the original Engineering Report/Environmental Information document review. The proposed changes do not change the overall wastewater design capacity and do not affect future developments associated with the project; therefore, SCI will not change as a result of the force main or lift station revisions

Conclusion

The review process indicated that the force main and lift station revisions reduce the overall environmental impact of this project. With the mitigation measures in place, significant adverse environmental impacts should not occur, and an environmental impact statement will not be required. The Finding of No Significant Impact is still valid.





FIGURE 2
CITY OF SANFORD
 PITTSBORO LIFT STATION SITE MAP

LEGEND

- Alternate LOD
- Property Line
- ▨ 0.2% Flood Zone
- ▨ 1% Flood Zone
- Stream
- 5-FT Contour
- - - Lift Station Building
- - - Electrical Building and Generator
- Proposed Force Main



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1 IN = 50 FT

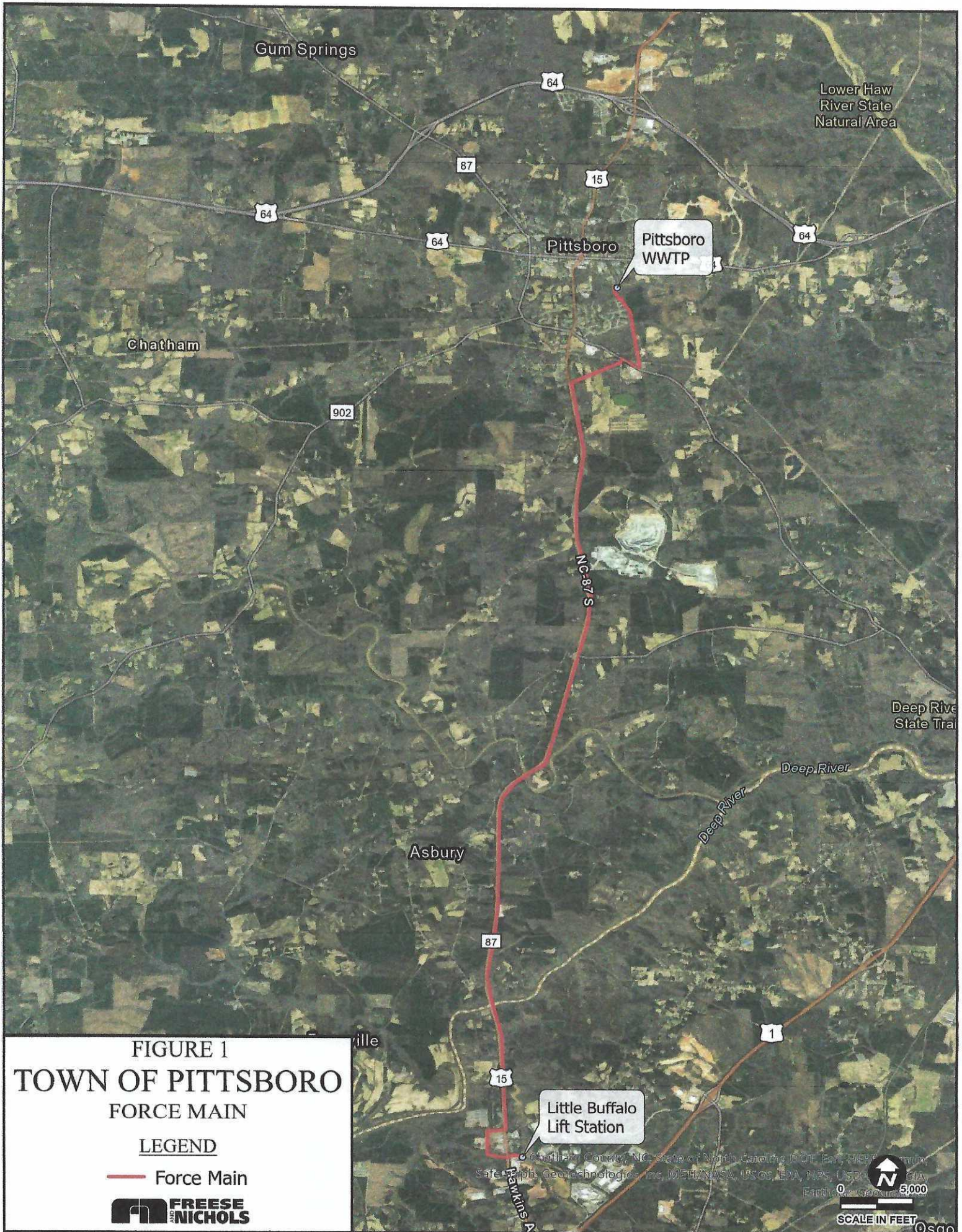


FIGURE 1
TOWN OF PITTSBORO

FORCE MAIN

LEGEND

— Force Main



Chatham County, NC State of North Carolina DOT, EPI, HEP, ...
 Safety, Geotechnologies, Inc. M&E/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, ...
 Earth Sciences

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 SCALE IN FEET

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