

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.: 1930

Applicant: ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Project Name: ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

Project Description

The project includes installation of a complete Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system that will enable the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) to automatically and remotely read all the water meters in the OWASA service area. The project includes: (a) installation of a fixed data collection network; (b) replacement/retrofit of about 21,000 water meters in the OWASA system with state-of-the-art registers and data transmitters; and (c) implementation and integration of associated software systems.

The proposed AMI system will: (a) reduce labor and vehicle costs and improve customer service levels through features such as automated remote meter reading for billing processes, leak monitoring and notification, and more efficient service initiation; (b) significantly reduce meter reading and reporting errors and related issues; and (c) enable OWASA to obtain more detailed water use data for conservation and system planning purposes.

The AMI project does not involve the expansion of existing water supply, treatment, and/or distribution system capacity.

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 \(2\)\(b\)\(ii\)\]](#)
- 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 \(2\)\(b\)\(iii\)\]](#)
- 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).

- X *****SEE COMMENT BELOW***** 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.

IT IS OWASA'S UNDERSTANDING THAT REVIEW COMMENT LETTERS ARE NOT REQUIRED, SINCE THIS IS A METERING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE AN AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT, AND REVIEW AGENCIES HAVE PROVIDED STANDARD COMMENTS TO THE NC DIVISION OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REGARDING SUCH PROJECTS.

TODD TAYLOR
Authorized Representative or Engineer Printed Name

 5/15/2017
Authorized Representative or Engineer Signature & Date

GENERAL MANAGER OF OPERATIONS
Authorized Representative or Engineer Title

State Use Only (Review)

Reviewed by: 

Date: 5/19/17

Departmental Approval: Vincent Jacob Tomas

Date: 5/19/2017

Review Checklist: Request for Categorical Exclusion for DWSRF Projects

Applicant: OWASA – AMI Meter Replacement Project **WIF #** 1930
PWS ID: 03-68-010 **P&S Serial #** NA

Required for all Requests for Categorical Exclusion (CEs)

Cross-Cutting Authority	Responsible Agency/Action(s) Taken/Dates Actions Taken
Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, Pub. L. 86-523, as amended National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, PL 89-665, as amended Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990	North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources for signoff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blanket letter from applicant OK? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments from agency OK? _____
Endangered Species Act, Pub. L. 93-205, as amended Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Pub. L. 85-624, as amended Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L. 90-542, as amended	US Army Corps of Engineers <input type="checkbox"/> By "no permits required" comment letter from USACOE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed "no jurisdiction" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed "no permits required" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer _____ <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed "all permits in place" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer _____
Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898	US Fish & Wildlife Service for signoff <input type="checkbox"/> Comments from USFWS OK _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed blanket letter from applicant's engineer for project scopes that don't require comments (see factsheet) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed blanket letter from applicant's engineer after 30 days pass without USFWS comment _____
Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Pub. L. 97-348	DWSRF Funding Unit and the local PWSS Regional Engineer Based on responses given by PWSS-RE to those questions included on the EJ questionnaire, which was provided to the RE during the priority review period: 1. Does the potentially affected community include an EJ community? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 2. Are there significant environmental impacts likely to fall disproportionately on minority and/or low-income members of the community and/or tribal resources? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Coastal Zone Management Act, Pub. L. 92-583, as amended	Division of Coastal Management (DCM) 1. Is this project located in any of the following counties: <i>Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 2. If the answer to question #1 is "Yes", then DCM must find if the project is in an Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) established by the Coastal Resources Commission. Is it in one of these AECs? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No DCM Response Date: _____ 3. If the answer to question #2 is "Yes", then the project requires a CAMA permit. Does the project have a CAMA permit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No CAMA Permit Date: _____

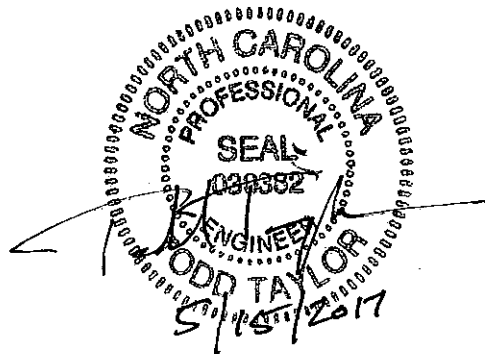
Signed Request for CE posted on Web? (optional) _____

**ENGINEERING REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION DOCUMENT
FOR OWASA'S PROPOSED
ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM
(NC DWSRF PROJECT WIF-1930)
MAY 15, 2017**

Prepared By:

Orange Water and Sewer Authority

Carrboro, North Carolina



Section 5 Environmental Documentation

Based on the NC Division of Water Infrastructure's guidance, a detailed environmental assessment and environmental information document is not required for the proposed Advanced Metering Infrastructure System project.

The following information is provided regarding the potential need for review comments from applicable interested agencies.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The proposed project does not require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

NC Department of Cultural Resources State Historic Preservation Office

It is our understanding that the project does not need a project-specific-comment letter from the NC Department of Cultural Resources State Historic Preservation Office because it consists solely of new or replacement/retrofit water meters on existing water lines, and installation of minor data collection and repeater units on existing OWASA elevated water tanks, and local utility and/or sign poles.

The project does not include installation of intake structures, new waterlines, or water tanks.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

It is our understanding that the project does not need a project-specific-comment letter from the USFWS because it consists solely of the following:

- (a) the installation or replacement of water meters on already existing services on existing waterlines, and
- (b) installation of telemetry equipment.

The project does not include intake structures or waterlines.

NC Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources

The project does not require approval of a sediment and erosion control plan.

OWASA has submitted a "Request for Categorical Exclusion from Substantive Environmental Review" for the proposed project, as it will not have a significant direct, indirect, cumulative or secondary adverse environmental impact as described in 15A NCAC 01C.0306 and as summarized below.

The proposed project does not 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.

The proposed project will not 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.

The proposed project does not have secondary impacts or 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.

Based on the above, OWASA believes the proposed project is eligible for consideration for a Categorical Exclusion from the State's environmental assessment review processes, and it has requested that the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality concur with this determination.