

Review Checklist: Request for Categorical Exclusion for DWSRF Projects

Applicant: Snow Hill WIF # 1954
 Project Name 2018 Water System Improvements

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	North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources for signoff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blanket letter from applicant OK? <u>in 11/30/15 ER, included</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments from agency OK? <u>in 12/2018 review</u>
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, PL 89-665, as amended	
Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990	US Army Corps of Engineers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By "no permits required" comment letter from USACoE <u>in 11/30/15 ER</u> <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed "no jurisdiction" blanket comment letter from applicant's engineer <u>included in 12/2018 review</u> <input 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 _____
Endangered Species Act, Pub. L. 93-205, as amended	US Fish & Wildlife Service for signoff <u>request 11/16/15</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments from USFWS OK <u>copy of letter received 12/28/2015</u> <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed blanket letter from applicant's engineer for project scopes <u>that don't require comments</u> (see factsheet) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> By sealed & signed blanket letter from applicant's engineer after 30 days pass without USFWS comment _____
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Pub. L. 85-624, as amended	
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L. 90-542, as amended	
Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898 <i>Replacement was prioritized in the CIP</i>	DWSRF Funding Unit and the local PWSS Regional Engineer Does the project require the assistance of the PWS Section Regional Supervisor to determine possible EJ impacts? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes: 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 Barrier Resources Act, Pub. L. 97-348	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <u>Green P</u> 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: _____
Coastal Zone Management Act, Pub. L 92-583, as amended	

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

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 under this webpage: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wi/planning>.

WIF No.: 1954

Applicant: Town of Snow Hill

Project Name: 2018 Water System Improvements

Project Description

Replacement of approximately 1,625 linear feet of 2, 6, & 8-inch water mains and appurtenances and installation of one (1) 100 kW standby generator on the site of the Town's groundwater wells identified as #4 & 4A (common site; generator will power both)

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.

Dennis Liles

Authorized Representative or Engineer Printed Name



11/21/2018

Authorized Representative or Engineer Signature & Date

Mayor

Authorized Representative or Engineer Title

State Use Only (Review)

Reviewed by: Vincent Jude Tomarin

Date: 22 January 2019

Departmental Approval: Vincent Jude Tomarin

Date: 22 January 2019

ENGINEERING REPORT

For

RECEIVED
DEC 28 2018
Division of Water Infrastructure

2018 Water System Improvements
DWSRF Project No. WIF1954



APPLICANT:

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

Date: November 2018
Revised December 2018

Prepared By:

Green Engineering, P.L.L.C.
NC Firm License: P-0115
303 Goldsboro Street E.
Wilson, NC 27893
(252) 237-5365

Thomas D. Dienes
Author of Report

Green Engineering Project No. 18-007



Discuss any sustainability considerations:

The main sustainable consideration of replacing the existing mains is continuity of service to the town's existing customers along these lines. The costly repairs experienced as a result of this aged infrastructure.

Other sustainability considerations include:

- Protection of the environment by reducing disturbance with re
- Providing a reliable supply of water to the customers along th

Discuss all funding sources for the project:

The project will be entirely funded by a DWSRF Loan. (DWSRF Project No. WIF-1954).

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The proposed DWSRF project meets all the requirements to qualify it for a Federal Categorical Exclusion.

This section of the Report certifies that the potentially interested agency conditions have been met by the following blanket comments:

NC Department of Cultural Resources

The project consists of solely of the following components:

1. Replacement waterlines in previously disturbed road or utility rights-of-way in the case of the water main replacement portion of this project; and
2. The placement of equipment within an existing facility's fenceline in the case of the installation of the permanent standby generator on the town's existing well no. 4 property.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

I have determined that no US Army Corps of Engineers Permit is required.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

While the installation of the project's permanent standby generator meets US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) blanket comments, the portion of the project that includes the replacement of water mains, even though in existing right-of-way, does not. Therefore, to comply with the Request for Categorical Exclusion, a request for comment letter was sent to USFWS. See Appendix 5.1 for a copy of this letter along with a copy

of a letter from USFWS stating their concurrence that the project is not likely to adversely affect any federally-list endangered or threatened species.

6.0 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The proposed project is to be entirely funded with DWSRF Loan funds. The Division of Water Infrastructure's Financial Analysis Worksheets are presented on the following 6 pages.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$651,420.00 and will be funded entirely with Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan funds; 50% forgiven and the remainder at 0% interest.

Based on the Division's Financial Analysis worksheets, the project could result in an increase of \$2.24 per residential customer per month per 5,000 gallons to service the new loan debt plus the first year's operations and maintenance costs. This reduces to \$1.47 per customer per month if all users are factored into the analysis. When applied to the current water bill for 5,000 gallons per month of \$34.50, increases the water bill as a percentage of monthly median household income from 1.43% to 1.52% for residential users only or from 1.43% to 1.49% for all users. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on user fees.

According to the town's 2017 audit, the Water and Sewer Fund had \$6,060 more in expenditures than revenues. This was due to a rather large capital outlay of \$162,476 for the purchase of vehicles for the water and sewer department, new water meters, and other plant and distribution improvements. Capital outlays in subsequent years were more modest and resulted in the Water & Sewer Fund maintaining revenues in excess of expenditures and are more in line with upcoming capital outlay needs. Therefore, it is anticipated that projected Water & Sewer Fund revenues will be sufficient to cover the debt service of this DWSRF loan without the need for a rate increase.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Raleigh ES Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

December 20, 2018

Thomas Dienes
Green Engineering, PLLC
PO Box 609
Wilson, NC 27893

Re: Town of Snow Hill 2018 Water System Improvements – Green County, NC

Dear Mr. Dienes:

This letter is to inform you that the Service has established an on-line project planning and consultation process which assists developers and consultants in determining whether a federally-listed species or designated critical habitat may be affected by a proposed project. For future projects, please visit the Raleigh Field Office's project planning website at <https://www.fws.gov/raleigh/pp.html>. If you are only searching for a list of species that may be present in the project's Action Area, then you may use the Service's Information, Planning, and Consultation System (IPaC) website to determine if any listed, proposed, or candidate species may be present in the Action Area and generate a species list. The IPaC website may be viewed at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. The IPaC web site contains a complete and frequently updated list of all endangered and threatened species protected by the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)(Act), a list of federal species of concern¹ that are known to occur in each county in North Carolina, and other resources.

Section 7 of the Act requires that all federal agencies (or their designated non-federal representative), in consultation with the Service, insure that any action federally authorized, funded, or carried out by such agencies is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any federally-listed endangered or threatened species. A biological assessment or evaluation may be prepared to fulfill that requirement and in determining whether additional consultation with the Service is necessary. In addition to the federally-protected species list, information on the species' life histories and habitats and information on completing a biological assessment or

¹ The term "federal species of concern" refers to those species which the Service believes might be in need of concentrated conservation actions. Federal species of concern receive no legal protection and their designation does not necessarily imply that the species will eventually be proposed for listing as a federally endangered or threatened species. However, we recommend that all practicable measures be taken to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to federal species of concern.

evaluation and can be found on our web page at <http://www.fws.gov/raleigh>. Please check the web site often for updated information or changes.

If your project contains suitable habitat for any of the federally-listed species known to be present within the county where your project occurs, the proposed action has the potential to adversely affect those species. As such, we recommend that surveys be conducted to determine the species' presence or absence within the project area. The use of North Carolina Natural Heritage program data should not be substituted for actual field surveys.

If you determine that the proposed action may affect (i.e., likely to adversely affect or not likely to adversely affect) a federally-protected species, you should notify this office with your determination, the results of your surveys, survey methodologies, and an analysis of the effects of the action on listed species, including consideration of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, before conducting any activities that might affect the species. If you determine that the proposed action will have no effect (i.e., no beneficial or adverse, direct or indirect effect) on federally listed species, then you are not required to contact our office for concurrence (unless an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared). However, you should maintain a complete record of the assessment, including steps leading to your determination of effect, the qualified personnel conducting the assessment, habitat conditions, site photographs, and any other related articles.

With regard to the above-referenced project, we offer the following remarks. Our comments are submitted pursuant to, and in accordance with, provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

Based on the information provided and other information available, it appears that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any federally-listed endangered or threatened species, their formally designated critical habitat, or species currently proposed for listing under the Act at these sites. We believe that the requirements of section 7(a)(2) of the Act have been satisfied for your project. Please remember that obligations under section 7 consultation must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered in this review; or, (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

However, the Service is concerned about the potential impacts the proposed action might have on aquatic species. Aquatic resources are highly susceptible to sedimentation. Therefore, we recommend that all practicable measures be taken to avoid adverse impacts to aquatic species, including implementing directional boring methods and stringent sediment and erosion control measures. An erosion and sedimentation control plan should be submitted to and approved by the North Carolina Division of Land Resources, Land Quality Section prior to construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls should be installed and maintained between the construction site and any nearby down-gradient surface waters. In addition, we recommend maintaining natural, vegetated buffers on all streams and creeks adjacent to the project site.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has developed a Guidance Memorandum (a copy can be found on our website at (<http://www.fws.gov/raleigh>) to address and mitigate secondary and cumulative impacts to aquatic and terrestrial wildlife resources and water quality.

We recommend that you consider this document in the development of your projects and in completing an initiation package for consultation (if necessary).

We hope you find our web page useful and informative and that following the process described above will reduce the time required, and eliminate the need, for general correspondence for species' lists. If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Ellis of this office at (919) 856-4520 ext. 26.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "E".

John Benjamin
Field Supervisor