

# 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.: 1931

Applicant: Tuckaseegee Water  
and Sewer Authority

Project Name: Valhalla Apartments Water System Consolidation

## Project Description

The project consists of approximately 1,000 LF of 8" water line, 1,030 LF of 6" water line, and 905 LF of 2" water line to connect the Valhalla Water System customers to the Tuckaseegee Water and Sewer Authority water system, and installation of new water meters and fire hydrants.  
The project is located in existing road right-of-ways or privately owned driveways, and the only stream crossing included in the project will be done by horizontal directional drill.

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.



Mike Dowd, PE

Authorized Representative or Engineer Printed Name

*Michael Dowd* 5/30/17

Authorized Representative or Engineer Signature & Date

Project Manager

Authorized Representative or Engineer Title

State Use Only (Review)

Reviewed by: *Nichelle McKay*

Date: *July 3, 2017*

Departmental Approval: *Vincent Just Tomaro*

Date: *12 July 2017*



# Review Checklist: Request for Categorical Exclusion for DWSRF Projects

Applicant: TUCKASEIGEE WATER & SEWER Authority WIF # 1931  
 PWS ID: VALHALLA PWS ID 01-50-199 → TWSA PWSID 01-5003<sup>5</sup> P&S Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

## 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	<b>North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources</b> for signoff. <input type="checkbox"/> Blanket letter from applicant OK? _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments from agency OK? _____
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, PL 89-665, as amended	
Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990	<b>US Army Corps of Engineers</b> <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 _____
Endangered Species Act, Pub. L. 93-205, as amended	<b>US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</b> for signoff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments from USFWS OK _____ <input 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 _____
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>No EJ implication for the rescue of a failing system. Njt 7.12.2017</i>	<b>DWSRF Funding Unit and the local PWSS Regional Engineer</b>  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 Barrier Resources Act, Pub. L. 97-348	<b>Division of Coastal Management (DCM)</b>  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  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) \_\_\_\_\_



**Addendum to the Engineer's Report**

WIF No.: 1931 – Valhalla Apartments Water System Consolidation  
Tuckasegee Water and Sewer Authority  
Jackson County, NC

**Comments from Potentially Interested Agencies**

**US Army Corp of Engineers**

I have determined that no US Army Corps of Engineers Permit is required. No construction activities, except for a directional-bore stream crossing, occur in a stream, lake, or body of water or in wetlands.



McGILL ASSOCIATES, PA  
MIKE DOWD, PE





## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Asheville Field Office  
160 Zillicoa Street Suite #B  
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

June 14, 2017



Mr. Mike Dowd  
McGill Associates, P.A.  
P.O. Box 2259  
Asheville, North Carolina 28802

Dear Mr. Dowd:

Subject: Valhalla Apartments Water System Consolidation, Cullowee, Jackson County, North Carolina

We received your letter dated May 22, 2017 (received on May 24, 2017), requesting our comments on the subject project. The following comments are provided in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) (Act).

According to our records and a review of the information you provided, no federally listed species or their habitats occur in the project area. Therefore, we believe the requirements under section 7 of the Act are fulfilled. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act 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 is determined that may be affected by the identified action.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. If we can be of assistance or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Allen Ratzlaff of our staff at 828/258-3939, Ext. 229. In any future correspondence concerning this project, please reference our Log Number 4-2-17-396.

cc:

Andrea Leslie, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, [andrea.leslie@ncwildlife.org](mailto:andrea.leslie@ncwildlife.org)  
Mr. Vincent Tomaino, Division of Water Infrastructure, 1633 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC  
27699-1633



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

June 23, 2017

Michael Whittenburg  
McGill Associates  
55 Broad Street  
Asheville, NC 28801

Re: Tuckaseegee Water and Sewer Authority, Valhalla Apartments Water Systems Consolidation, WIF-1931,  
Jackson County, ER 17-1169

Dear Mr. Whittenburg:

Thank you for your email of June 23, 2017, concerning the above project.

We have conducted a review of the project and are aware of no historic resources which would be affected by the project. Therefore, we have no comment on the project as proposed.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

for Ramona M. Bartos