



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

For the Proposed Project of McMinnville (Warren County), Tennessee

Loan No. DWB22 2024-270

May 7, 2024

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (Department) State Revolving Fund Loan Program has conducted a review of the above-referenced project in accordance with the Operating Agreement between the Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for implementing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Program. The Department has determined that this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Accordingly, the Department is exempting the project from further substantive environmental review requirements under the Department's EPA-approved National Environmental Policy Act-like environmental review process.

The project consists of the construction of a new filter building, complete with laboratory and control room. The proposed building will incorporate new features associated with recent advances in automation, as well as provide redundancy. Five filters are proposed to be installed to replace four existing filters, each filter having its own control system and eliminating the requirement of operation in pairs. In addition to the filter building replacement, McMinnville proposes to modify the existing sedimentation basin to include the installation of plate settlers and a hoseless sludge collector; and improvements at the raw water intake. All work will take place at the existing water treatment plant site. The total estimated project cost is \$8,215,822. A DWSRF loan in the amount of \$5,700,000 has been requested for this project. This project will be funded with a \$2,850,000 loan and \$2,850,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid by the City of McMinnville. Additional funding is \$2,515,822 in ARPA SWIG funding. The project location is indicated in attached Exhibit 1.

The project is eligible for a CE because undertaking this action:

1. Does not involve serious local or environmental issues;
2. Will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment either individually, cumulatively, over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local, tribal or private action(s);
3. Will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, endangered or threatened species and their habitats, or environmentally important natural resource areas, and
4. Is cost-effective and should cause no significant public controversy.

The CE determination shall become effective upon its distribution by the Department and can be revoked at any time adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this CE eligibility determination will be on file with the Department and available for public review upon request.

If you wish to comment or to challenge this CE determination, send your written comment(s) to:

Ms. Felicia D. Freeman, Environmental Manager
Division of Water Resources, State Revolving Fund Loan Program
Davy Crockett Tower, 9th Floor
500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243

or call or e-mail (615) 879-0011 or felicia.d.freeman@tn.gov