



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

January 26, 2011

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

In accordance with the environmental review regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500, and the implementing environmental review procedures at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled "Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality on the National Environmental Policy Act", the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the following action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and is exempt from further environmental review.

Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project
Proposed by the City of Ada
Located in Pontotoc County, Oklahoma

Estimated EPA Share: \$ 485,000
Estimated Local Share: \$ 815,000

BACKGROUND

The City of Ada (City) is located in the southeast central portion of Oklahoma, approximately 85 miles southeast of Oklahoma City, and has a population of approximately 17,000 residents. The City operates its own wastewater collection and treatment system to serve the wastewater needs of the citizens living in the area. The City's wastewater treatment plant is rated to receive and adequately treat a flow of up to 3.2 million gallons per day (mgd) of untreated wastewater, although the average flow is approximately 2.51 mgd. Wastewater is collected from the entire south side of the City by one lift station designated locally as the Highway 99 Lift Station. This lift station handles approximately one million gallons per day of the City's wastewater flow into the wastewater treatment plant. This lift station was constructed in 1978, and has now exceeded its useful design life and mechanical ability.

The City is experiencing frequent mechanical problems and failures with this lift station, which recently failed again and resulted in a bypass of untreated flow into a local creek. This condition has caused a public health hazard for the citizens living in the area. Since the Highway 99 Lift Station pumps almost half of the City's wastewater, the City has proposed rehabilitation activities to the pump station to improve the operation of the station. The lift station will have a common inflow junction box to receive flow from the nearby Chickasaw Nation health facility.

The Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act for the EPA included special Congressional funding for water and wastewater construction projects. The funding recipient was selected to receive funding support through these special appropriations for the upgrade of the equipment to correct existing deficiencies, meet future growth demands, and to meet current Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality regulations. The improvements should enable the City to continue to protect the health and welfare of the citizens living in the area by improving the overall operational capability of the wastewater system.

The project was initially reviewed for environmental impacts by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) in accordance with NEPA. The review by the OWRB determined that no significant adverse environmental impacts should result from implementation of the proposed rehabilitation activities, and that the project qualifies for the issuance of a CE. The results of the OWRB are acceptable to the EPA, and provide adequate and reasonable assurance that no significant adverse environmental impacts should result from the project. The funding recipient has requested that the project be granted a CE by the EPA, and be excluded from the full environmental review and assessment requirements of NEPA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City is proposing the following improvements to correct the operational problems associated with the failing pump station:

1. Install new pumps and controls;
2. Install new wet well;
3. Install new overall controls;
4. Install new generator; and
5. Revise yard piping.

All project-related rehabilitation and construction activities will occur entirely within an area that has been previously disturbed, and will be both on and adjacent to the existing pump station. No new land will be acquired, and no persons or businesses will be displaced by the project. After completion, the rehabilitated pump station should insure better operational functionality of the overall wastewater collection system. The project will not enlarge or expand the capacity of either the lift station or the treatment plant which would then not qualify for exclusion from full NEPA review.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

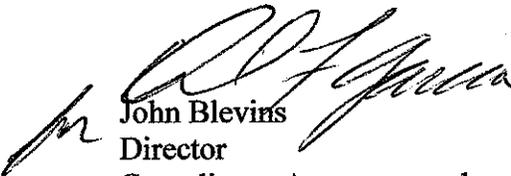
The proposed project qualifies for a CE. The project is a small-scale, routine action solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of an existing facility and functional replacement of existing equipment. The proposed action will not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with any other federal, state, local, or private actions, have a significant effect

on the quality of the human environment and may be exempted from environmental review under NEPA. No adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on cultural resources, endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, floodplain, wetlands, prime farmlands or aquifer recharge zones were identified. There are no Environmental Justice concerns with the proposed project since all residents in the area will benefit equally from the infrastructure improvements.

APPROVAL

The request for the issuance of a CE is approved. This approval will be revoked if at any time the project no longer meets the eligibility for a CE, new evidence determines that significant local or environmental issues exist, or that federal, state, local or tribal laws are being or may be violated by implementation of the project.

Responsible Official,


John Blevins
Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division

cc: Darrell Nemecek, Mayor
City of Ada

J. D. Strong, Executive Director
Oklahoma Water Resources Board