



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAR 18 2005

Mayor and Borough Council
Borough of Carteret
61 Cook Avenue
Carteret, New Jersey 07008

Dear Mayor and Council:

We have reviewed the information submitted for the Borough of Carteret's proposed Hill District and West Carteret Sewer Rehabilitation project, pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 CFR Part 6, and have determined that the project qualifies for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements. The project, which involves rehabilitation of the sanitary sewer systems in these areas, is being partially funded through a federal Special Appropriation Act grant (Grant No. XP98247001).

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, EPA approves a CATEX for the project. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen C. Callahan".

Kathleen C. Callahan
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: T&M Associates, Consulting Engineers

ENCLOSURE

Borough of Carteret West Carteret and Hill District Sewer Rehabilitation Project Middlesex County, New Jersey Special Appropriation Project No. XP98247001

Background

In 1985, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) placed the Borough of Carteret's sewage collection system under a sewer connection ban as a result of operational and capacity problems. Improvements were made and, consequently, the ban was later lifted for most of the Borough except for two small areas. The sewer connection ban remains in place for the West Carteret and Hill District areas because they continue to experience episodes of sewer surcharges, mainly during heavy rainfall events, due to excessive extraneous flows in the sewer system.

In May 2004, the NJDEP and the Borough entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) which called for a detailed investigation of the sewer system to identify sources of excessive flow and means of correcting deficiencies to reduce these extraneous flows. The Borough subsequently performed the necessary sewer system investigation and developed its plan to rectify the situation.

Proposed Action

The proposed project consists of various location-specific repairs to the sanitary sewer system to reduce extraneous flows. The types of repairs involved include: pipe and manhole repairs and linings, manhole replacement, trenchless pipe repairs, removal of tree roots, and testing/sealing of pipe joints and house connections. Most of the planned work can be done in-place without involving excavation or ground disturbance. Any excavation that is unavoidable will be done in existing rights-of-way and on paved roadways, with no clearing of trees/shrubs anticipated.

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the proposed action, the "No Action" alternative was considered. "No Action" was rejected because it does not address the problems of backups and overflows of sanitary sewage that subject residents of both areas to health hazards and sewage-related property damage, and because it would leave the sewer connection ban in place for these areas.

Criteria for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow CATEXs for activities involving "actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities."

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.505(c)(1), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters, will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters, nor will it provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on cultural resources, endangered or threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.