



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAY 20 2005

Honorable Marceil Letts
Mayor
Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills
1001 Parsippany Boulevard
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Dear Mayor Letts:

This is in response to the Township's request for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for constructing the proposed Jersey City/Parsippany Water Supply Interconnection, upgrading the Park Road Booster Station, and replacing the South Beverwick Road Sewage Pump Station. These projects may be partially funded through a federal Special Appropriation Act Grant.

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves the request for the CATEX. 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,


Kathleen C. Callahan
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

Categorical Exclusion Request Special Appropriations Grant Project Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills Morris County, New Jersey

Background

The Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey, currently relies solely on groundwater for its water supply needs. It is in immediate need of additional water to satisfy its current and future water supply requirements. In this regard, the Township recently executed an Administrative Consent Order with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Conservation that mandates strict compliance with its local water conservation ordinance, and that the Township must construct an interconnection with the existing Jersey City water supply aqueduct and put it in service by June 2006. Further, the Township's existing Park Road water booster station and its South Beverwick Road sewage pump station need to be rehabilitated/replaced to ensure their reliable operation.

Proposed Action

The Township is proposing to construct a water booster pump station and approximately 1,200 linear feet of 12-inch diameter water lines to convey water from the Jersey City Aqueduct to the Township's existing water distribution system, renovate an existing water booster station (Park Road), and replace a small 40 year-old sewage pump station (Beverwick Road).

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the "Proposed Action," the "No Action" alternative was considered. "No Action" was rejected because it would not address any of the Town's water supply limitations, or its public health/water quality problems.

Eligibility 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 toward 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.