



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

AUG 5 2008

William E. Lamy, P.E.
Superintendent of Public Works
Warren County Department of Public Works
4028 Main Street
Warrensburg, New York 12885

Dear Mr. Lamy:

This is in response to your request for a categorical exclusion (**CATEX**) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to **40 CFR Part 6**, for the Warren County Department of Public Work's proposed project, Sanitary Sewer Collection System Improvements, located in the Town of **Bolton**, Warren County, New York.

The project, which involves replacing an existing force main and upgrading the existing north end **pump** station, 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.

This **CATEX** is available for public viewing on EPA Region 2's **website**, <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm#r2docs>. 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 black ink that reads "Alan J. Steinberg".

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Kathy Simmes, Supervisor, Town of Bolton
Alexandra Rhodes, P.E., C.T. Male Associates, P.C.

ENCLOSURE

Warren County Department of Public Works
Sanitary Sewer Collection System Improvements
Warren County, New York
Special Appropriation Project (XP-992256-01)

Background

Three existing force mains that traverse the shore of Lake George have experienced breaks within the last year, necessitating an emergency action to minimize discharge of untreated wastewater into Lake George. One force main, the focus of this project, is located in wetlands adjacent to the Sawmill Marina. Its repair involved the connection of a temporary line laid on the ground from the north end pump station to a downstream manhole. This temporary line will remain in service until the leaking force main is replaced. The deteriorating force main is antiquated, the soil conditions in the area are poor, and the area is plagued by high groundwater. There is the potential for more sewer line breaks to occur until this force main is replaced.

At the north end pump station, two 250 gallon per minute (gpm) alternating long shaft dry pit submersible pumps operated by constant speed controls are antiquated. Currently, these pumps and controls require extensive repairs, and present safety risks to repair personnel because of their placement and configuration. Additionally, the pump units as well as the associated spare parts are no longer being manufactured. Replacement duplex pumps and controls are required for the north end pump station to ensure continuous and safe operation.

Proposed Action

Replacing the existing force main that is out of service and upgrading the existing north end pump station which involve the following:

- Abandon the 8-inch cast iron force main that runs along the shoreline from the north end pumping station to the Norowal pump station.
- Install approximately 1,200 linear feet of new 8-inch diameter PVC pressure sewer within street rights-of-way. The sewer line will be connected from the north end pump station to the existing sanitary manhole #89 on Norowal Road. From the north end pump station, this sewer line will **run** west on Dock Road, traverse south on New York State Route 9N, and turn east to connect at first man hole on Norowal Road.
- Remove the two dry pit submersible pumps and three constant speed controls.
- Install two 250 gpm submersible sewage pumps and variable frequency drive (VFD) units.

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the proposed action, "No Action" was considered. The no action alternative for the deteriorating force main would result in continued sewer line breaks and system failures, which would allow raw wastewater to enter the waters of Lake George resulting in human health and environmental impacts.

Additionally, under the no action alternative there would be the continued likelihood of extensive downtime because of scarcity of spare parts for the pumps. Furthermore, potential hazards to staff working on repairs at the pump station would remain. This situation would create potential hardship for the community.

Determination for Granting Categorical Exclusion

The Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility requirements found in 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii) apply to this action. This category includes, "actions relating to existing **infrastructure** systems (such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity, or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities."

This project does not involve: a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water; an increase in the volume or loading of pollutants to receiving water; or capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. Further, it is not contrary to any state or regional growth plan or strategy; and it is not primarily for the purpose of future development.

Extraordinary Circumstances

Review of the available information provided by the applicant on the proposed action indicates that none of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 40 CFR 6.204(b)(1) through (10) are involved.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.