FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Drinking Water Distribution Expansion
for Colonia Luis Donaldo Colosio, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of a
Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant to the Water and Wastewater Utilities of
Nogales, Sonora (Organismo Operador Municipal de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado
(OOMAPAS)) to expand their drinking water distribution system to unserved areas within
Colonia Luis Donaldo Colosio. The proposed project lies within Nogales, Sonora, Mexico,
which is located approximately 2.5 miles south of the international boundary.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION
The purpose of the proposed action is to address the public health risks associated with an
inadequate supply of sanitary potable water. Currently, the OOMAPAS system reaches 52
percent of the population of Colonia Luis Donaldo Colosio. The remaining 48 percent of the
population receives drinking water hauled by water trucks. The proposed project would provide
water service to the 3,384 residents through the installation of approximately 68,240 feet of
water distribution pipeline, construction of one new water storage tank, and activation of an
existing water storage tank.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS
In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), EPA has prepared an
Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the potential transboundary environmental
impacts of the proposed action. After considering a wide range of regulatory, environmental
(both natural and human) and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant
adverse impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of the proposed
expansion of the drinking water distribution system.

Environmental impacts in Mexico are addressed in the Manifestación de Impacto Ambiental,
which was prepared in accordance with the environmental impact review process of the CEDES
(Comision de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora). This analysis supports
a determination that the proposed infrastructure project will not have a significant adverse
impact on human health and the environment in Mexico.

PUBLIC REVIEW
The EA was circulated for public review and comment. Only one comment was received during
the 30-day public review period. The letter was from the U.S. Section of the International
Boundary and Water Commission and it was in support of the project.
FINDING
After review of the EA, EPA has determined that the proposed drinking water distribution expansion for Colonia Luis Donaldo Colosio will not have a significant impact on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project.

Alexis Strauss, Director
Water Division

13 Jan. 2010
Date