



## OFFICE OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### **DECISION MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project-Specific Availability Waiver of American Iron and Steel Requirements to the City of Lakeland, Florida for 2-Inch, 6-Inch, and 8-Inch Flanged Strainers

**FROM:** Andrew Sawyers, Director

Decision: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is hereby granting a project waiver pursuant to the “American Iron and Steel” (AIS) requirements of the Clean Water Act Section 608 under the authority of Section 608(c)(2) to the City of Lakeland, Florida (Applicant) for 2-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch flanged strainers. This waiver permits the use of these flanged strainers, manufactured outside of the United States, in the Glendale Water Reclamation Facility Chlorine Contact Chamber and Effluent Pumping Project, because no domestic manufacturers produce alternatives that meet the technical specifications of the project.

This waiver applies only to the proposed project funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). Any other jurisdiction with projects funded by either the CWSRF, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, or the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act that wishes to use the same products must apply for a separate waiver.

Rationale: Section 608 of the Clean Water Act requires CWSRF assistance recipients for treatment works projects to use specific iron and steel products that are produced in the United States. The EPA has the authority to determine whether it is necessary to waive this requirement based on certain circumstances set forth in Section 608(c) of the Clean Water Act. The provision states that, “[the requirements] shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator [of the EPA] finds that – . . . (2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality.”

Background of Waiver Request: The Applicant provided information to the EPA asserting that there are no domestic manufacturers producing 2-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch flanged strainers in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality. The flanged strainers will be used in the Applicant’s ongoing project, which seeks to replace the existing infrastructure with a new chlorine contact chamber and effluent pumping facilities capable of pumping to the

Applicant's other water reclamation facility or its wetlands system.

Assessment of Waiver Request: The EPA conducted market research and a public comment period on the supply and availability of 2-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch flanged strainers. The basis of evaluation included thorough review of the waiver request submission, examination of domestic manufacturer catalogs or other technical data and marketing materials, personal communication with domestic manufacturers, inquiries of state staff, and outreach to contractors and engineers with expertise and familiarity with the project. During market research, the EPA contacted twelve (12) manufacturers and suppliers of these flanged strainers. There were no manufacturers who indicated they could provide AIS-compliant flanged strainers that meet the technical specifications of the project. The EPA received no (zero) public comments to the waiver request.

Finding: Since the Applicant established a reasonable basis to specify the products required for this project, and because the EPA substantiated the Applicant's claim through market research that these products are not available from a manufacturer in the United States, the City of Lakeland, Florida is hereby granted a waiver from the AIS requirements. This waiver permits the use of 2-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch flanged strainers, as documented in the State of Florida's waiver request submittal on behalf of the Applicant dated February 18, 2025.

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, please contact Timothy Connor, Chemical Engineer, Water Infrastructure Division, at [connor.timothy@epa.gov](mailto:connor.timothy@epa.gov) or (202) 566-1059.