



OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Availability-Based Project Waiver of American Iron and Steel Requirements for Restrained Joint Ductile Iron Pipe Fittings for the City of Sanford, NC, Water Filtration Facility Expansion Project Waiver Number 04-DWA-0023

FROM: Jennifer L. McLain, Director

Decision: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is granting an availability-based project-specific waiver pursuant to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to the City of Sanford, NC (Applicant), for the purchase of restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings for the Water Filtration Facility Expansion Project. This waiver permits the use of these restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings because no known manufacturers produce domestic products that meet the technical specifications of the project. This project-specific waiver applies only to the use of the specified products for the referenced project funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Any other project funded by the DWSRF, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, or the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act that wishes to use the same product must request a separate waiver based on the specific project circumstances.

Rationale: The AIS provision requires DWSRF assistance recipients to use specific domestic iron and steel products if the project is funded through an SRF assistance agreement unless the EPA determines that it is necessary to waive this requirement. The EPA has the authority to issue waivers in accordance with Section 1452(a)(4)(C)(ii) of the SDWA. The provision states in part: “[the requirements] shall be waived in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator [of the Environmental Protection Agency] ...finds that... 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 project consists of expanding a water filtration facility in the City of Sanford, NC. The project requested a waiver for butterfly valves and restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings. It requires the installation of 30-inch butterfly valves and 16-inch to 24-inch restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings for its successful completion. The project requires the valves to regulate flow in intake and discharge lines, as well as flow isolation in the water filtration facility, and it requires the restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings to prevent the pipe joints from separating under pressure. The project requires the plant to be completed on time to avoid extending into winter, causing seasonal construction delays.

The Applicant conducted research to find a domestic manufacturer of AIS-compliant restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings and butterfly valves and provided information to the EPA demonstrating that no domestic manufacturers of these restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings and butterfly valves meet the project's schedule and technical specifications.

Assessment of Waiver Request: The EPA conducted market research on the supply and availability of restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings and butterfly valves. The EPA reached out to 8 known restrained joint ductile iron pipe fitting manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors. Two manufacturers indicated that they could provide a domestic option, however none of these options met the project's specifications. The EPA also reached out to 18 known butterfly valve manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors. Five manufacturers indicated that they could provide a domestic option, however with long lead times.

Per statutory requirement, the waiver request was posted on the EPA's AIS website for the mandatory 15-day public comment period. The EPA received three public comments. One comment was from a manufacturer who indicated that they are unable to provide AIS-compliant butterfly valves. One comment was from a butterfly valve manufacturer who said that they are not providing the butterfly valves for this project. One comment was from a manufacturer who indicated that they are unable to provide AIS-compliant 16-inch to 24-inch restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings.

Finding: The EPA is granting an availability-based waiver from the AIS requirements to the City of Sanford, NC, for the Water Filtration Facility Expansion Project for 16-inch to 24-inch restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings. This waiver permits the purchase of restrained joint ductile iron pipe fittings using DWSRF funds as documented in the State of North Carolina's waiver request submittal on behalf of the assistance recipient, dated May 23, 2025.

The EPA is not granting a waiver for 30-inch butterfly valves. Based on communication with the project, the potential domestic manufacturers can deliver the butterfly valves to meet the technical specifications of the project and within a reasonable time to keep the project on schedule.

Legal Authority: Legal authority for the AIS requirements for DWSRF projects, including waiver authority, is included in the Safe Drinking Water Act section 1452(a)(4).

If you have questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, please contact Peter Roumeliotis, Physical Scientist at roumeliotis.peter@epa.gov, or Jorge Medrano, Environmental Engineer at medrano.jorge@epa.gov, Drinking Water Infrastructure Development Division.