



## OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### **MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Availability-Based Project Waiver of American Iron and Steel Requirements for 24-inch Seamless Steel Casing for the Riviera Beach Water Treatment Facility - GMP 4 Deep Injection Well and Dual Zone Monitoring Well Project  
Waiver Number 04-DWA-0026

**FROM:** Jennifer L. McLain, Director

Decision: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hereby granting an availability-based project-specific waiver pursuant to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District, FL (Applicant), for the purchase of 24-inch seamless steel casing. This waiver permits the use of 24-inch seamless steel casing because no known manufacturers produce a domestic product that meets the technical specifications of the project. This project-specific waiver applies only to the use of the specified product 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 constructing one new deep concentrate injection well and one dual zone monitoring well. The purpose of these wells is to support the future membrane-based Water Treatment Facility for the Riviera Beach Utility Special District by providing a means for concentrate disposal. The 24-inch seamless steel casing is an integral

part of the project, as it will serve as the internal casing for the deep injection well. A seamless casing is necessary since a welded casing would lead to premature degradation, and it is a requirement of the Florida Administrative Code for Class I injection wells.

The Applicant conducted research to find a domestic manufacturer of AIS-compliant 24-inch seamless steel casing and provided information to the EPA demonstrating that no domestic manufacturers of 24-inch seamless steel casing meet the project's technical specifications.

Assessment of Waiver Request: The EPA conducted market research on the supply and availability for 24-inch seamless steel casing and reached out to 10 (ten) manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors. Two (2) manufacturers indicated that they could provide a domestic option that meets the project's technical specifications. When contacted, the first manufacturer indicated that they could make straight seam welded casings, not seamless, which does not meet the project's technical specifications or the Florida Administrative Code for Class I injection wells. The second manufacturer indicated that there was limited ability to produce the required 24-inch seamless steel casing, with lead times up to eight months which would significantly delay the project, since the deep injection well cannot be constructed without the seamless steel casing.

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 public comments from four (4) different manufacturers. One public comment came from a manufacturer stating they would review the waiver request but never submitted a response to the request. One public comment came from a manufacturer indicating that they could manufacture 24-inch seamless steel casing from foreign steel, which would not meet the AIS requirements. One comment came from a manufacturer stating that they could make a welded 24-inch steel casing, but not the seamless 24-inch steel casing; therefore, did not meet the project's technical specifications. One manufacturer indicated they could make a domestic 24-inch seamless steel casing. The project submitted additional information demonstrating how this product would not meet their technical specifications. This manufacturer submitted a follow-up comment stating that they could not make the 24-inch seamless steel casing to the project's specifications, and that they did not know of any domestic manufacturer that could.

Finding: The EPA is granting an availability-based waiver from the AIS requirements to the City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District, for the Riviera Beach Water Treatment Facility - GMP 4 Deep Injection Well and Dual Zone Monitoring Well Project, with respect to the 24-inch seamless steel casing. This waiver permits the purchase of 24-inch seamless steel casing using DWSRF funds, as documented in the State of Florida's waiver request submittal on behalf of the assistance recipient, dated October 13, 2025.

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 Alexis Johnson, Physical Scientist at [johnson.alexis.j@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.alexis.j@epa.gov), Drinking Water Infrastructure Development Division.