



OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Availability-Based Project Waiver of American Iron and Steel Requirements for Globe Valves for the Davie County Public Utilities, NC Water Transmission Improvement Project
Waiver Number 04-DWA-0024

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 Davie County Public Utilities, NC (Applicant), for the purchase of globe valves. This waiver permits the use of globe valves 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 expanding Davie County’s water treatment plant (WTP), decommissioning the Town of Mockville’s WTP, and constructing new transmission mains to supply water to the Town of Mockville from the new Davie County WTP. The globe valves will be used for flow control of the caustic system in the new plant. They will

play a critical role in modulating flow on the discharge side of the centrifugal pumps and will allow for more precise flow adjustments that would not be feasible with other types of valves.

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

Assessment of Waiver Request: The EPA conducted market research on the supply and availability of globe valves and reached out to 13 manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors. No (0) manufacturers indicated that they could provide a domestic option that meets the project's technical specifications.

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 no public comments during the public comment period.

Finding: The EPA is granting an availability-based waiver from the AIS requirements to Davie County Public Utilities, NC, for the Water Transmission Improvement Project, with respect to globe valves. This waiver permits the purchase of globe valves using DWSRF funds, as documented in the State of North Carolina's waiver request submittal on behalf of the assistance recipient, dated March 20, 2026.

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 Jorge Medrano, Environmental Engineer, at medrano.jorge@epa.gov, Drinking Water Infrastructure Development Division.