



OFFICE OF GROUND WATER AND DRINKING WATER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Availability-Based Project Waiver of American Iron and Steel Requirements for Stainless Steel Swing Check Valves for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, CT, Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant Project
Waiver Number 01-DWA-0015

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 South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, CT (Applicant), for the purchase of stainless steel swing check valves. This waiver permits the use of stainless steel swing check 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 upgrading two chemical feed systems; the sodium hydroxide system and the potassium permanganate system. The sodium hydroxide system requires 316 stainless steel valves and pipes. The stainless steel components, including

the stainless steel swing check valves for the sodium hydroxide system, for which this waiver is requested, are required to withstand corrosive wear. Stainless steel swing check valves will be installed on the discharge side of the transfer pump and each of the chemical metering pumps. When installed on a pump discharge line, they prevent backflow into the pump which could damage the pump.

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

Assessment of Waiver Request: The EPA conducted market research on the supply and availability of stainless steel swing check valves and reached out to 18 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 South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, CT, for the Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant Project, with respect to stainless steel swing check valves. This waiver permits the purchase of stainless steel swing check valves using DWSRF funds, as documented in the State of Connecticut's waiver request submittal on behalf of the assistance recipient, dated June 11, 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.