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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION SUMMARY AND NOTIFICATION

Purpose

This memo documents for the project file the justification for granting a Categorical Exclusion.

Background

The City of Keiser (project # 24-097) was issued a categorical exclusion (CE) from the full and substantive environmental review procedures of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Division, "Arkansas Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund State Environmental Review Process." A previous CE, issued on September 22, 2025, was for the City of Keiser experiencing large fluctuations in flows during heavy rainfall events overloading their wastewater collection system including lift stations. Many residents are unable to flush toilets under these conditions and have sewer backing up into their bathtubs. These large rainfall events have caused discharge permit excursions. The proposed project is to rehabilitate the wastewater collection system protecting the surface water by reducing the risk of overflows from the sewer manholes and lift stations. Rehabilitation of the collection system and amending the significant breaks in the linework will help to negate heavy inflow and infiltration into the system.

A minor change in scope has been presented to our agency adding sewer improvements and additions to West Main Street and South Dunavant Street adding approximately 4,700 linear feet of sewer linework adjacent to existing previously sewered neighborhoods. Other improvements to correct a low-pressure collection system consist of replacing that low-pressure system with gravity sewer mains.

This project qualifies as a CE in that is an action relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities. This category does not include actions that: involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water; will likely result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water; will provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; are not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy; or directly or indirectly involve or relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development.

No extraordinary circumstances found in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §6.204 apply to this proposed action.

Key Points

1. Review completed by Keith Sanders
Approved by Keith Sanders

Recommendation

The proposed project has been determined to be categorically excluded from the full and substantive environmental review process as part of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission's State Revolving Fund program. The proposed project meets the requirements for a CE found in 40 CFR Part 6, Subpart B, §6.204 of the Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Review Procedures.