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Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463  
(334) 271-7700 • FAX (334) 271-7950

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Phenix City Department of Public Utilities  
Russell County

SRF Project No. FS010273-01

September 29, 2020

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made \$865,800 in financial assistance available to the Phenix City Department of Public Utilities using funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program. In accordance with State and Federal regulations that govern the program, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has conducted a review to assess the potential impacts upon the environment that may result from implementation of this project.

The Phenix City Department of Public Utilities proposes a project for various water system improvements that include a water main extension. The water main extension will be approximately 9,500 LF and will help improve pressure levels along the high elevation of the road.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and consequently is herewith issuing a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to support the use of DWSRF funds for the construction of the proposed project. However, this decision may be reconsidered if significant adverse information concerning the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project is discovered. Attached is an Environmental Assessment that details the proposed project and its impact upon the environment.

Comments relative to this project should be submitted in writing to Mrs. Juliette M. Waid, SRF Section, Permits & Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463, no later than 30 days after the date of public notice. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will not take formal action to proceed with the project without carefully evaluating any public comments opposing the project.

Sincerely,

Lance R. LeFleur  
Director

Attachment

LRL/EJR/JMW/kbh



## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Phenix City Department of Public Utilities  
Russell County

SRF Project No. FS010273-01

### A. Proposed Facilities and Actions

The Phenix City Department of Public Utilities proposes a project for various water system improvements that include a water main extension. The water main extension will be approximately 9,500 LF and will help improve pressure levels along the high elevation of the road.

### B. Existing Environment

The proposed project is located on Summerville Road within the utility jurisdiction of Phenix City, AL 36867. The project is located in Lee County. The project is located approximately 1 mile west of the Georgia border. The project is partially located within the city limits of Phenix City, AL.

### C. Existing Water Facilities

The Phenix City Water System provides potable drinking water to almost 15,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers. Phenix City also provides wholesale water to the Smiths Station Water & Sewer Authority. The water system is comprised of a single water treatment plant, three (3) booster pumping stations, five (5) water storage tanks, and a significant amount of buried distribution piping consisting mostly of PVC and ductile iron materials.

### D. Need for Proposed Facilities

ADEM regulations require a minimum service pressure of 20 psi at the customer meter. The Summerville Road ridgeline is a high ground elevation that significantly lowers the customer pressure in those areas, although pressures are typically slightly higher than 20 psi. However, this minimum pressure is for health purposes to assure that potential sources of contamination at higher pressure cannot compromise water quality. Customers typically require pressures between 40 psi and 80 psi to satisfy needs for washing, showering, etc. The customers in the Summerville Road area have complained often for many years now about the service pressure provided by Phenix City. In order to increase customer satisfaction and decrease liability, the City needs to complete the proposed project to improve water pressure in the area.

### E. Alternatives Analysis

#### **Alternative 1 –Do Nothing**

The first alternative for the low pressure along Summerville Road would be to take “no action”. This option is unacceptable and could have potential negative consequences to public health for those customers affected by low pressure.

## **Alternative 2 – Install Pressure Control Valve at Glenwood GST**

This alternative consists of installing a control valve at the Glenwood Ground Storage Tank (GST) to create backpressure on the water plant high service pumps so that the hydraulic grade and resulting service pressure is elevated for all customers in that pressure zone. This alternative has been tested by Phenix City by installing a temporary valve. The backpressure does improve pressure along Summerville Road, but it also creates high pressure throughout the service zone, including relatively high pressures exceeding 120 psi. This method is also very difficult to maintain and control since it relies on controlling the speed of the high service pumps at the WTP, so it is not a good long-term solution. This alternative also consumes the greatest amount of energy of all the alternatives.

## **Alternative 3 – Install Booster Pumping Station**

This alternative consists of installing a booster pumping station along Summerville Road to increase pressures in a selected area of high elevation. This alternative would require new piping in order to isolate the service area of the new high pressure zone, and control of the pump station would have to be coordinated with the Glenwood GST. This alternative would not include fire protection for the structures in the new service zone since water storage is not included.

## **Alternative 4 – Install Summerville Road Watermain from Glenwood EST**

This alternative consists of the proposed project to install a new watermain along Summerville Road from the existing Glenwood Elevated Storage Tank (EST) to the area of high elevation. This alternative provides the best solution for consistent pressures and also provides fire protection from the Glenwood EST. This alternative does not consume any additional energy. Alternative 4 was selected as the project needed to resolve the current issues facing the Phenix City water system.

### **F. Environmental Justice**

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. The Environmental Justice for the project area shows that the residents are a high percentile in both socioeconomic issues and minority groups. The project will not affect Environmental Justice areas. All construction will follow Best Management Practices and surface features will be restored to pre-construction conditions or better.

### **G. Environmental Consequences; Mitigative Measures**

The proposed project activities represent no overall or lasting adverse environmental impact except the minimal impact associated with normal construction activities. Some short term effects including increased noise levels, dust, and erosion issues with minimal ground disturbance can occur during actual construction. While all such effects cannot be totally

avoided, adherence to Best Management Practices (BMPs) during the course of the project will significantly minimize such conditions.

#### Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

Project review and concurrence was requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (F&W) Service. Review of the proposed project by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (F&W) Service found no federally listed species critical habitat that are known to occur in the project area. The project will also have no significant impact on fish or wildlife. If the project design should change, new plans should be submitted to the U.S Fish and Wildlife immediately.

#### Historical and Archaeological

Review of the proposed project work by the Alabama Historical Commission found no potential adverse impact of cultural resources. Project approval was granted upon the condition that the location, scope, and nature of construction activities remain as originally presented and occur within existing highway right-of-ways or previously disturbed areas. Should artifacts or archaeological features be encountered during execution of project activities, work should cease and the Alabama Historical Commission should be contacted immediately.

#### Wetlands and Floodplains

The U.S Army Corps of Engineer's was consulted for this project. The Department of the Army has determined that construction activities will be on dry land and will not involve jurisdictional waters including wetlands. Nevertheless, if construction activities in the future impact jurisdictional waters, the Department of the Army will need to be contacted.

#### Regional Commission

The project was reviewed by the Lee Russel Council of Governments and concurrence with the project was received.

#### H. Public Participation: Sources Consulted

A Public Meeting was held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020, at Martin Idle Hour Park Community Center located at 3743 Moon Lake Drive, Phenix City, Alabama 36867. The meeting provided information and an open discuss to receive comments and concerns related to the proposed project and justification of improvements proposed for funding by the DWSRF loan.

Sources to be consulted about this project for information or concurrence include the following:

Alabama Department of:

- Agriculture and Industries
- Conservation and Natural Resources
- Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)
- Public Health

State Soil and Water Conservation

Alabama Forestry Commission

Alabama Historical Commission

US Army Corps of Engineers

US Department of Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service

US Environmental Protection Agency

Tuscaloosa County Health Department

Bibb County Health Department





# ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street  
P.O. Box 300900  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900  
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

April 21, 2020

Stephen Smith  
1119 Broad Street  
Phenix City, AL 36867

Re: AHC 20-0697  
Phenix City 2020 Drinking Water SRF Improvements  
Russell County

Dear Mr. Smith:

We concur with the above referenced project provided all construction activities will occur within either the highway right-of-way or in previously disturbed areas. Any area that is to be involved and does not fall into one of the above categories will require a cultural resource assessment by a professional archaeologist. Submit the resulting report to our office for review and determination prior to project initiation.

However, should artifacts or archaeological features be encountered during project activities, work shall cease and our office shall be consulted immediately. Artifacts are objects made, used or modified by humans. They include but are not excluded to arrowheads, broken pieces of pottery or glass, stone implements, metal fasteners or tools, etc. Archaeological features are stains in the soil that indicate disturbance by human activity. Some examples are post holes, building foundations, trash pits and even human burials. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to insure contractors are aware of it.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's historic archaeological and architectural resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda McBride at 334.230.2692 or [Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov). Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/AMH/nw

TA/BBJ  
2020-TA-0731



RECEIVED  
APR 02 2020

BY: *CM*

March 30, 2020

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526-4419

Attn: Field Supervisor

RE: Environmental Review -  
Phenix City Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Application  
Constantine Project No. 100425.22

Dear Sirs:

At the request of the City of Phenix City Department of Public Utilities, Alabama, we are submitting the following information for your review and Environmental Concurrence. The attached location maps include the proposed locations for construction of improvements to the potable water system to provide reliable service and maintain existing facilities.

Phenix City is proposing construction projects that include two (2) separate projects as follows:

1. Summerville Road New Watermain Extension - this project proposes to add 9500 feet of 8-inch watermain to improve very low pressures in the high elevations along Summerville Road. The existing customers are served by the Glenwood Ground Storage Tank and can result in pressures as low as 20 psi. The project proposes to install a new main from the existing Glenwood Elevated Storage Tank which will increase pressures to at least 80 psi.
2. Storage Tank Repairs and Recoating - this project proposes to repair sanitary and safety defects at the existing water system storage tanks and will recoat the interior and exterior steel of the tanks. It has been more than 15 years since the tanks were coated, so this project will extend the useful service life of the storage tanks. The project includes the following structures:
  - o Glenwood Elevated Tank - 250,000 gallons
  - o Glenwood Ground Storage Tank - 2,100,000 gallons
  - o Bailey Hill Ground Storage Tank - 2,000,000 gallons
  - o Brandywine Ground Storage Tank - 2,000,000 gallons
  - o Knowles Road Ground Storage Tank - 1,000,000 gallons



207 S. 8th Street  
Suite 220  
Opelika, AL 36801



Office: 334.610.1299  
Fax: 888.215.3836



www.tceng.com

RE: Phenix City Environmental Review  
Page 2 of 2  
March 30, 2020

A State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Application has been submitted to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for this project. As part of the Environmental Reports submitted to ADEM and EPA, we will include your comments and address any necessary issues.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
CONSTANTINE ENGINEERING, INC.



Joe Downey, P. E.  
Project Manager

Enclosures

Cc: Stephen Smith, Phenix City Director of Utilities  
John Spraggins, Phenix City Utilities Engineer



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1208-B Main Street – Daphne, Alabama 36526  
Phone 251-441-5181 Fax 251-441-6222

No federally listed species critical habitat are known to occur in the project area. As described, the project will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT NEW PLANS FOR REVIEW. We recommend use of best management practices specific to your project (See <http://www.fws.gov/daphne/section7/bmp.html> ).

William J. Pearson, Field Supervisor

Date

# 3

North Branch  
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Jurisdictional Determination, File Number SAM-2020-00362-JLB, Phenix City Department of Public Utilities – Drinking Water Grant

Phenix City Department of Public Utilities  
c/o Constantine Engineering, Inc  
Attention: Mr. Joe Downey  
207 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 220  
Opelika, Alabama 36801

Transmitted electronically to [jdowney@tcgeng.com](mailto:jdowney@tcgeng.com)

Dear Mr. Downey:

This is in response to your letter, on behalf of the Phenix City Department of Public Utilities, dated March 30, 2020, requesting comments regarding the proposed installation of a new potable water main along Lee County Road 248 (also known as Summerville Road) near center coordinate latitude N32.524674, longitude W85.032048, and rehabilitation of multiple existing water storage tanks throughout the Phenix City community in Lee County, Alabama. This project has been assigned file number **SAM-2020-00362-JLB**, which should be referred to in all future correspondence regarding the project.

Based on our review of the information you provided and other publicly available mapping resources, we have determined that installation of the proposed water main along Summerville Road would occur on non-jurisdictional dry land or upland areas that do not contain Federally-regulated wetlands or other “waters of the United States (U.S.)”

The proposed water main installation work at the specific location identified above was reviewed pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which requires that a DA permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into “waters of the United States”, including wetlands, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 1344). For regulatory purposes, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defines wetlands as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

This letter contains an approved jurisdictional determination (JD) for the water main construction location specified above. If you object to this determination, you may request an administrative appeal under USACE Regulations at 33 CFR Part 331. Attached you will find a Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) fact sheet and Request for Appeal (RFA) form. If you request to appeal this determination you must submit a completed RFA form to the USACE, South Atlantic Division Office at the following address:

Administrative Appeals Review Officer  
Attention: Mr. Philip Shannin  
Telephone: (404) 562-5137, Fax: (404) 562-5138  
60 Forsyth Street Southwest, Room 10M15  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8801

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the USACE, the USACE must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 CFR Part 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the NAP. Should you decide to submit an RFA form, it must be received at the above address by **June 29, 2020**. It is not necessary to submit an RFA form to the Division Office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.

This approved JD is based on current policy and regulation and is valid for a period of five years from the date of this letter. If by the end of the five-year period the proposed work has not been implemented and this JD has not been specifically revalidated by the USACE, it shall automatically expire.

Additionally, your letter states the water system improvement project will include painting and miscellaneous structural repairs to existing water tanks throughout the City of Phenix City. These activities typically are not regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as no discharge of dredged or fill material is required to implement this work.

The statements contained herein do not convey any property rights or any exclusive privileges, and do not authorize any injury to property nor shall it be construed as excusing you from compliance with other Federal, State, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations that may affect proposed work at this site. Furthermore, this determination has been conducted to identify the limits of the USACE Clean Water Act jurisdiction for the particular site identified in this request. This determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the FSA of 1985, as amended. If you are a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participant, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to starting work.

If you intend to sell property that is part of a project that requires DA authorization, it may be subject to the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act. The Property Report, required by Housing and Urban Development Regulation, must state whether or not a permit for the development has been applied for, issued or denied by the USACE, (Part 320.3(h) of Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations).

Based on our findings regarding the proposed water line installation alignment and water storage tank maintenance work as specified herein, a DA permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act **will not be required** to implement the proposed work.

We appreciate your cooperation with the USACE Regulatory Program. If the locations or scopes of work change for the new water line installation and storage tank maintenance, you are urged to contact this office for a verification of this determination.

You may contact Mr. Logan Brown at (205) 290-9096 or at [jacob.l.brown@usace.army.mil](mailto:jacob.l.brown@usace.army.mil), if you have questions concerning this matter. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, visit our website at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx). Also, while you are there please take a moment to complete our regulatory customer survey located near the bottom of the webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will help us improve our services.

Sincerely,

Leslie E. Turney  
Chief, North Branch  
Regulatory Division

Attachments



**LEE-RUSSELL**  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

April 21, 2020

Mr. Joe Downey, P.E.  
Constantine Engineering, Inc.  
207 S. 8th Street  
Suite 220  
Opelika, AL 36801

Dear Mr. Downey:

This letter is to provide environmental concurrence for the Phenix City Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Application for the following projects:

1. Summerville Road New Watermain Extension
2. Storage Tank Repairs and Recoating

Let me know if you need any additional information. Thanks.

Lisa Sandt  
Executive Director

**Mayor Eddie Lowe**, Chairman **Lisa Sandt**, Executive Director

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