



Alabama Department of Environmental Management
adem.alabama.gov

1400 Coliseum Blvd. 36110-2400 ■ Post Office Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463
(334) 271-7700 ■ FAX (334) 271-7950

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

City of Northport
Tuscaloosa County

SRF Project No. CS010621-07

March 26, 2025

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made **\$8,887,207** in financial assistance available to the **City of Northport** using funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). 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 City of Northport proposes a project to replace deficient sewer mains within the current lift station drainage basin and installation of a new lift station. The proposed project consists of replacing existing sewer mains and installing a new lift station to separate the current drainage basin into two sub-basins. Completion of this project will alleviate existing and future sanitary sewer overflows (SSO), reduce inflow/infiltration (I/I), maintain current and future regulatory compliance, and improve the treatment plant's energy efficiency.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from further environmental study under the guidelines specified by the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) which specifically include actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. However, this decision may be reconsidered if significant adverse information concerning the potential environmental impacts of the project is discovered.

Comments relative to this project should be submitted in writing to Mrs. Chavon R. Jones, 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.

Lance R. LeFleur
Director

LRL/EJR/CRJ/kbh

Attachment



Birmingham Office
110 Vulcan Road
Birmingham, AL 35209-4702
(205) 942-6168
(205) 941-1603 (FAX)

Decatur Office
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.
Decatur, AL 35603-1333
(256) 353-1713
(256) 340-9359 (FAX)

Coastal Office
1615 South Broad Street
Mobile, AL 36605
(251) 450-3400
(251) 479-2593 (FAX)

The Categorical Exclusion is promulgated in the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) in Part IV, Section B: Categorical Exclusions for Clean Water State Revolving Fund Projects: (Italicized sections apply.)

1. The following clean water projects are eligible for categorical exclusions.
 - a. *Actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities;*
 - b. *Actions which do not affect the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facility including, but not limited to, infiltration and inflow corrections, replacement of existing mechanical equipment or structures, and the construction of small structures on existing sites;*
 - c. *Actions which are for minor upgrading and minor expansion of existing treatment works in sewer communities with a population less than 10,000;*
 - d. Actions where on-site technologies are proposed in unsewered communities of less than 10,000;
 - e. Construction of new wastewater collection systems for existing communities, only if ancillary or appurtenant to existing facilities;
 - f. Projects where funding is being provided for planning and/or engineering costs only (in which case the requirements of IV.B.1 a-f do not apply)
2. In order to determine if a clean water project is eligible for a CE, all of the following conditions must not apply:
 - a. The action is known or expected to have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, either individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other federal, State, local, tribal or private actions.
 - b. The action is known or expected to adversely impact:
 - 1) Cultural resources areas such as archaeological and historical sites,
 - 2) Endangered or threatened species and their critical habitats,
 - 3) Environmentally important natural resources areas such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands, or aquifer recharging zones.
 - c. This action is known or expected not to be cost-effective or to cause significant public controversy.
 - d. The facilities to be provided will
 - 1) Create a new, or
 - 2) Significantly relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters.
 - e. The facilities will result in more than 30% increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters.
 - f. The facilities would provide capacity to serve a population 30% higher than the anticipated design population.



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Tel: 334-242-3184
Fax: 334-242-1083

July 21, 2023

LizAnne Espy
The Cassady Company
4700 Highway 69 North
Northport, AL 35473

Re: AHC 23-1098
Highway 82 Pump Station and Force Main-City of Northport
Tuscaloosa County

Dear Ms. Espy:

We concur with the above referenced project provided all construction activities will occur within **existing and previously disturbed** highway right-of-way and/or other previously disturbed areas. For the purposes of this letter, previous disturbance is defined as mechanical disturbance to either culturally sterile subsoil, or the maximum depth of the proposed undertaking. It should be noted that agricultural plowing does not typically meet this threshold of disturbance, nor do previously undisturbed portions of the ROW that require clearing of additional vegetation. 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.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office does not constitute consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal, and glass objects. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office immediately. If human remains are encountered, the provisions of the Alabama Burial Act (*Code of Alabama* 1975, §13A-7-23.1, as amended; Alabama Historical Commission Administrative Code Chapter 460-X-10 Burials) should be followed. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to ensure 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. 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/nj



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

AUG 15 2023

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2023-0110451

Ms. Glenda D. Webb, City Administrator
City of Northport
3500 McFarland Blvd.
Northport, AL 35476

Dear Ms. Webb:

Thank you for your letter dated July 20, 2023, in which you requested comments on behalf of the City of Northport for the proposed Hwy 82 pump station, gravity sewer, and force main project. The proposed project includes replacement of the existing deficient 16" gravity sewer main with a larger 24" sewer main from Highway 82 to Flatwoods Road in the City of Northport in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. The following comments are provided in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Federally Listed Species

According to our records, the following Federally listed species may occur in your project area:

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalist*) – Endangered
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) – Endangered

Suitable summer habitat for the Indiana and northern long-eared bats may be present in the site. Suitable Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat habitat includes forests and woodlots containing potential roost trees, including live trees and/or snags ≥ 5 inches and ≥ 3 inches dbh, respectively, that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices or hollows. Some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures, as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors may also be considered suitable habitat. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat. If the site contains possible Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat summer habitat, we recommend tree clearing should occur from October 15 to March 31.

If all tree removal for this project is carried out between October 15 and March 31, no further

consultation will be necessary for the Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat. If this timing is not achievable and no other measures to avoid adverse effects are possible, then we recommend that the project proponent proceed to acoustic and/or mist-netting surveys to determine presence or probable absence of Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats at the project site in accordance with the 2023 Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines:

<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Erin Lentz of my staff at erin_lentz@fws.gov. Please refer to the reference number located at the top of this letter in future phone calls or written correspondence.

Sincerely,



William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35203

October 5, 2023

North Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Pre-Application Consultation, File Number SAM-2023-00627, City of Northport Hwy 82 Pump Station, Gravity Sewer Force Main in Northport, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

City of Northport
Attention: Ms. Glenda Webb
3500 McFarland Blvd
Northport, Alabama 35476
Transmitted electronically to gwebb@cityofnorthport.org

Dear Ms. Webb:

We are responding to your request for authorization to replace the existing gravity sewer for the City of Northport. The proposed work is located near Highway 82 in the City of Newport within Section 8, Township 21 South, Range 10 West, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

The regulated activity associated with the project described above includes the temporary discharge of fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.) as a result of replacing the existing 16" gravity sewer main with a larger 24" sewer main from Highway 82 to Flatwoods Road, the construction of a new pump station near Highway 82, and replacement of the existing 12" force main with an 18" force main from the new Highway 82 pump station to the 24" force main connection at Lift Station No 2. The work appears to be authorized by a Nationwide Permit (NWP), specifically, NWP 58. No application or notification to the Mobile District Corps of Engineers is required for your project.

This letter does not verify permit eligibility but indicates that your project may meet the requirements of this permit. **It is your responsibility to ensure that the work is performed in accordance with the terms and general conditions of this permit, as well as State 401 Water Quality Certification conditions prior starting work in waters of the U.S.** A copy of the above-referenced NWP and its associated Regional and General Conditions and State Water Quality Certification are attached for your review and compliance.

A change in location or project plans may require re-evaluation of your project. Proposed changes should be coordinated with this office prior to construction. Failure to comply with all terms and conditions of the Nationwide Permit invalidates the authorization and could result in a violation of Section 301 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. You must also obtain all other local, State, and other Federal permits that may apply to this project.

An electronic copy of this letter is being provided to your agent, LizAnn Espy, at lespy@thecassadyco.com.

If you have any questions please contact your project manager, Bryan Moatts, at (205)824-2752 or by email at Bryan.A.Moatts@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Christina Schroeder

2023.10.04

16:47:52 -06'00'

Christina Schroeder
NM/TX Branch Chief
Albuquerque District
On Behalf Of
North Branch
Mobile Regulatory Division

Enclosures

Angela Henline

From: Collins Espy
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 11:14 AM
To: Moatts, Bryan A CIV USARMY CESAM (USA); Schroeder, Christina L CIV USARMY CESPA (USA)
Cc: Uitvlugt, Shawn F CIV SPA
Subject: RE: SAM-2023-00627 // Northport Sewer Line Replacement // Applicant point of contact with agent
Attachments: 2023-09-18.CORR.23-627.insufficient info.pdf

Ms. Schroeder,

That is correct, we are working with the City of Northport, Alabama on an SRF funded sewer project and were tasked with obtaining concurrence from the Corps as a part of the grant funding. We received the attached letter in response to our initial inquiry and it led to several questions that I had:

1. The letter states that "A permit may be required if there is a discharge of fill or dredged material, if no discharges of dredged and/or fill material would be necessary, then a DA permit would not be required." Given that we are laying a sewer line and backfilling with native material, I assume that this would not constitute a discharge of fill (other than the temporary discharge of fill necessary for excavation. So is the requested wetlands delineation even necessary?
2. If a delineation is necessary, would it then be followed by a Jurisdictional Review? Or would the presence of wetlands alone be enough to require permitting from the Corps?
3. Would a set of plans (minus the wetlands delineation, which has not been performed yet), help to clear the issue? If so, I can have a digital copy sent to you.

Feel free to call me on my cell phone number below if I have confused the issue.

Thank you,
Collins Espy, P.E.
The Cassady Company, Inc.
4700 Highway 69 North, Northport, AL 35473
Phone (205) 330-0098, Fax (205) 330-0099
Cell (205) 799-4102

From: Moatts, Bryan A CIV USARMY CESAM (USA) <Bryan.A.Moatts@usace.army.mil>
Sent: September 27, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Collins Espy <pcespy@thecassadyco.com>
Cc: Schroeder, Christina L CIV USARMY CESPA (USA) <Christina.L.Schroeder@usace.army.mil>; Uitvlugt, Shawn F CIV SPA <Shawn.F.Uitvlugt@usace.army.mil>
Subject: SAM-2023-00627 // Northport Sewer Line Replacement // Applicant point of contact with agent

Good afternoon,
This email is serving the purpose to establish a point of contact for Mr. Collins Espy with Christina Schroeder (USACE PM) for the above referenced project. Some of the questions we (Mr. Collins and I) discussed were the permitting

requirements for discharge of side-cast material and using said material to refill the cut and if those impacts would constitute as temporary.

Respectfully,

Bryan Moatts

Biologist/Project Manager

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Mobile District

Regulatory Division, North Branch

The Shelby Building

600 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 203

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

Office: (205) 824-2752(Tuesday and Wednesday)

Cell: (205) 779-9463

Bryan.A.Moatts@usace.army.mil



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

September 25, 2023

North Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Pre-Application Consultation, File Number SAM-2023-00627, City of Northport Hwy 82 Pump Station, Gravity Sewer Force Main in Northport, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

City of Northport
Attention: Ms. Glenda Webb
3500 McFarland Blvd
Northport, Alabama 35476

Dear Ms. Webb:

This is in response to your letter dated July 20, 2023, regarding the proposed gravity sewer replacement in Northport, Alabama. The project location is near streams or tributaries. The project has been assigned file number SAM-2023-00627, which should be referenced in all future correspondence regarding this project.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a Department of the Army (DA) permit be obtained prior to the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands (33 U.S.C. 1344). Based on our review of the project information submitted and desktop mapping resources available to us, **it is unclear if there are waters of the U.S. within the project area** that would be impacted by the proposed construction. A permit may be required if there is a discharge of fill or dredged material, if no discharges of dredged and/or fill material would be necessary, then a DA permit would not be required.

We recommend that your agency contract with a private environmental consultant having experience in the delineation of wetlands and other waters of the U.S. in accordance with current Corps of Engineers accepted methods and in Section 404 permitting to perform a delineation of the proposed project area and assist with applying for any Department of the Army permits that may be required as a result of the proposed work.

The statements contained herein do not convey any property rights or any exclusive privileges, and do not authorize any injury to property or obviate the requirements to obtain other local, State, or Federal approvals required by law for the activities discussed above.

We appreciate your cooperation with the USACE Regulatory Program. Please contact Bryan Moatts at (205)824-2752, or at bryan.a.moatts@usace.army.mil if you have any questions concerning this matter. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, you may visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. Also, please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located under the

Menu header on the right side of our webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

Sincerely,

Christina Schroeder

2023.09.25

19:06:03 -06'00'

Christina Schroeder
NM/TX Branch Chief
Albuquerque District on behalf of
North Branch
Mobile Regulatory Division

CC LizAnn Espy at lespy@thecassadyco.com
Enclosure

West Alabama Regional Commission

4200 Highway 69 North, Suite 1 • P.O. Box 509 • Northport, Alabama 35476-0509

205.333.2990 • Facsimile 205.333.2713

October 18, 2023

City of Northport
3500 McFarland Boulevard
Northport AL, 35476
Attn: Glenda Webb, City Administrator

Re: City of Northport 2023 ADEM CWSRF Loan Program

Dear Mrs. Webb;

We have received your request for Intergovernmental Review and EID Concurrence as required by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The proposed improvements to upgrade the city's sewer system by constructing a new pump station near Hwy 82 and increasing select force main and gravity lines will serve to enhance the overall collection system and provide residents and businesses reliable service.

The West Alabama Regional Commission concurs with the project as proposed.

With best regards,



Cory Johnson
Director of Community and Economic Development





The
Cassady
Company,
Inc.



SCALE: 1"=1000

SCALE: 1"=1000

MP1

1 of 1