



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

CWM Water Authority
Clarke, Wilcox, and Monroe Counties, AL

SRF Project No. FS010404-01

July 17, 2025

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made **\$743,505.00** in financial assistance available to the **CWM Water Authority** utilizing funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Bipartisan Infrastructure Loan (**DWSRF - BIL**) 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.

CWM Water Authority proposes to upgrade water meters. The proposed project would replace existing manual read meters with new Automatic Meter Read (AMR) water meters for all customers served by CWM Water Authority. The proposed project will reduce unaccounted water and O&M costs, increase accuracy of billing operations, and improve safety for the water system staff.

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 related to this project should be submitted in writing to Mrs. Kelly Bibb, SRF Section, Permits and Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463, no later than 30 days after the date of this 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,

Jeffery W. Kitchens,
Acting Director

JWK/MDM/KMB/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 sewered 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.

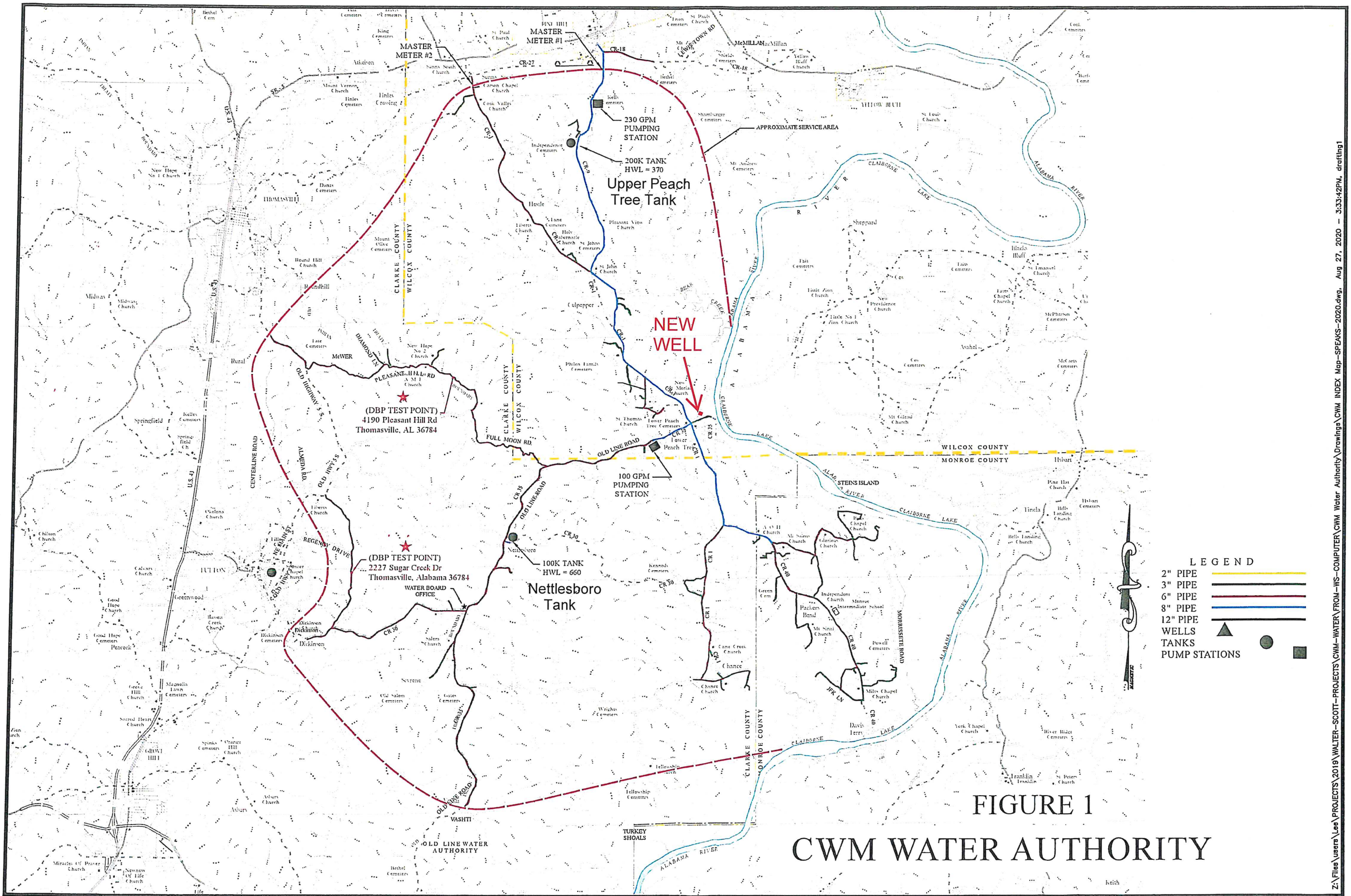


FIGURE 1

CWM WATER AUTHORITY

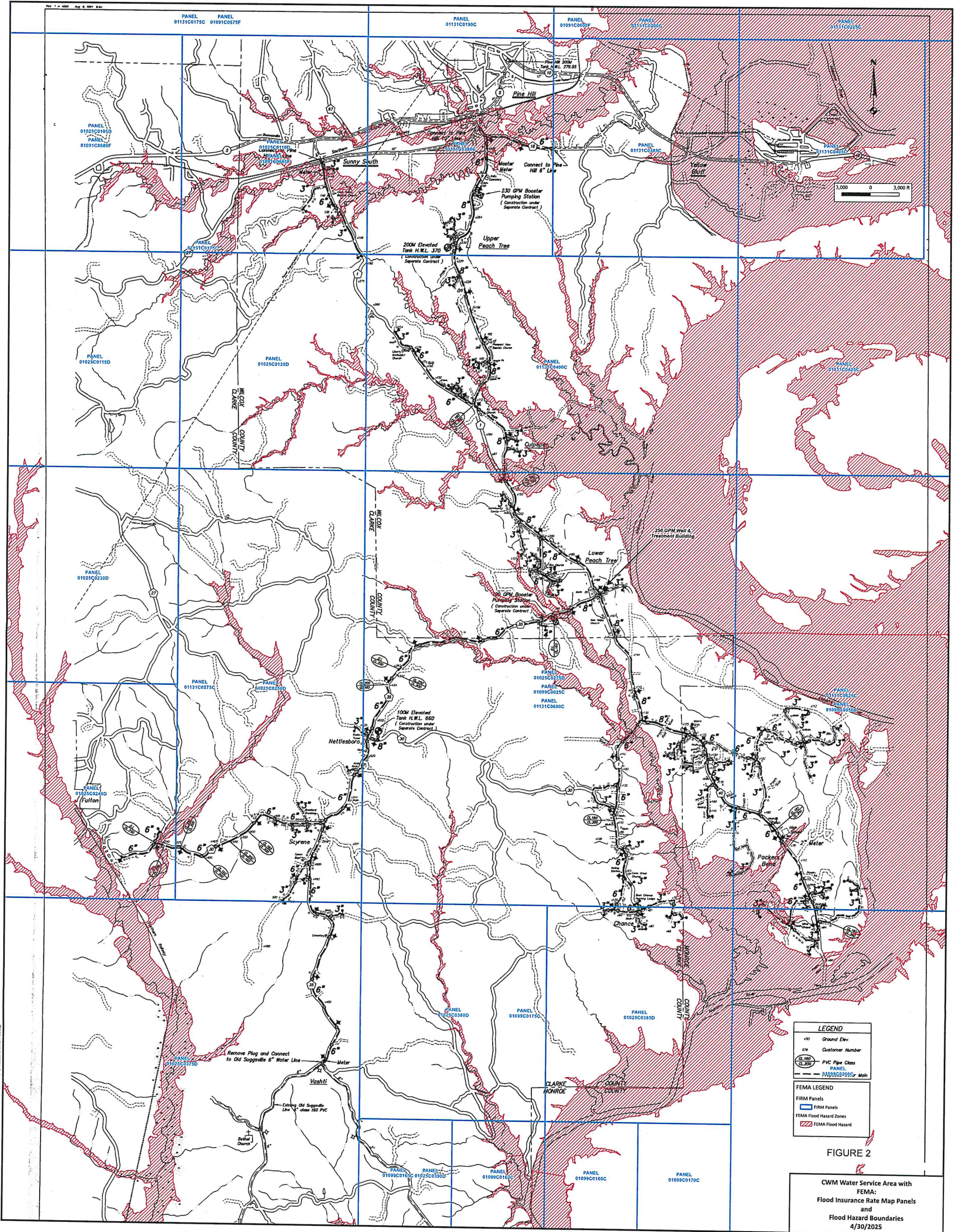


FIGURE 2

CWM Water Service Area with
FEMA:
Flood Insurance Rate Map Panels
and
Flood Hazard Boundaries
4/30/2025



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

February 18, 2025

William Luker
Speaks & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.
732 Oak Circle Drive West
Mobile, AL 36609

Re: AHC 25-0439
AMR Meter System-CWM
Wilcox County

Dear Mr. Luker:

Upon review of the above referenced project, we concur that project activities will have no effect on cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we concur with the determination of no effect to historic properties.

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 Eric Sipes at 334.230.2667 or Eric.Sipes@ahc.alabama.gov. Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Hewett
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAH/EDS/lah

RE: AMR Meter Replacement Project (CWM Water DWSRF)

From: 106, Section (section.106@ahcalabama.gov)
To: jennifer@speaks.cc
Cc: jerry@speaks.cc
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 08:19 AM CST

Thank you for your e-mail. Your project has been logged into our database.

Your project number is **AHC 2025-0439.**

Please reference this number in all correspondence regarding this project.

Best regards,

Alabama Historical Commission
Section 106/Regulatory Review Division

From: jennifer@speaks.cc <jennifer@speaks.cc>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 10:50 AM
To: 106, Section <section.106@ahc.alabama.gov>
Cc: 'Jerry Luker' <jerry@speaks.cc>
Subject: AMR Meter Replacement Project (CWM Water DWSRF)

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached, you will find a copy of the completed Section 106 Project Review Consultation Form for the AMR Meter Replacement Project for the CWM Water Authority. Due to attachment size limitations, I will send a separate e-mail containing labeled pictures of examples of the APE of this project. Please do not hesitate to contact our firm if you have any questions or need any additional supporting documents.

Thank you,

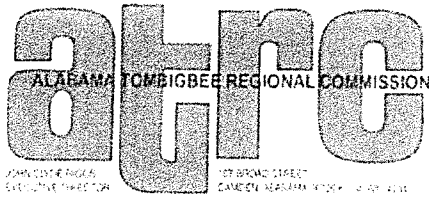
Jennifer McIlwain

Speaks & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Phone: (251) 666-4646

e-mail: jennifer@speaks.cc

cc: jerry@speaks.cc



Date: February 10, 2025

Address: CWM Water Authority
c/o William G. Luker
Speaks & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.
732 Oak Circle Drive West
Mobile, Alabama 36609

Applicant: CWM Water Authority

Project/Program: Replacement of existing traditional water meters with water meters equipped with Automated Meter Reading (AMR) technology.

Funding Source/Program: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

This office has reviewed the above project/program. Our comments are indicated below. If you have questions, please contact the review officer at the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission.

No Interest	_____
Concur	<u>X</u>
Need More Data	_____
Cannot Concur	_____
Consistent with Regional Plans	<u>X</u>
Consistent with Local Plans	<u>X</u>

Additional Comments: _____



Brandy Wilkerson, Planning Director



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

June 9, 2025

South Alabama Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army, Jurisdictional Determination Request, File Number SAM-2025-00116-ANB, CWM Water Authority Meter System Improvements, Clarke County, Wilcox County, and Monroe County, Alabama

CWM Water Authority
Attention: Mr. Levoyd Bradford, Chairman
Email Address: cwmwater36436@gmail.com
5495-B Brooksville Road
Dickinson, AL 36436

Dear Mr. Bradford,

Reference is made to a request sent on your behalf for a jurisdictional determination for a project to replace water meters and associated infrastructure within Monroe County, Wilcox County, and Clarke County, Alabama. This project has been assigned File Number SAM-2025-00116-ANB, which should be referred to in all future correspondence with this office concerning this project. The project is located in: Monroe County; within Section 05, Township 9 North, Range 6 East; center coordinates 31.77735414, -87.63817089; Wilcox County; within Section 29, Township 11 North, Range 5 East; center coordinates 31.89449909, -87.58801834; and Clarke County; within Section 11, Township 9 North, Range 4 East, center coordinates 31.77332391, -87.63817089.

A desktop evaluation by this office has determined that the project, as described, does not involve activities in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States, as regulated under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403), or include the discharge of fill material, permanent or temporary, in waters of the United States, including wetlands, as regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Based upon the information and plans your agent provided (attached), we have determined this proposed work, as described, is a non-regulated activity with regard to Department of the Army (DA) regulations and does not require a DA permit.

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 authorizations required by law for the activities discussed above. If the scope of work of your project changes, you are urged to contact

this office for a verification of this determination. Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program.

You are receiving an electronic copy only of this letter. If you wish to receive a paper copy, you should send a written request to this office at the following address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your agent, Speaks and Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc., Attention: Mr. William C. Luker, at email address jerry@speaks.cc.

You can contact me by e-mail at adrienne.n.berg@usace.army.mil or at (251) 387-1063, should you have any questions. Please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx for additional information about our Regulatory Program. Also, please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located near the bottom of the webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

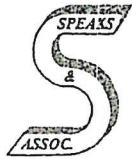
Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Adrienne N.
Berg
Date: 2025.06.09 15:43:01 -05'00'

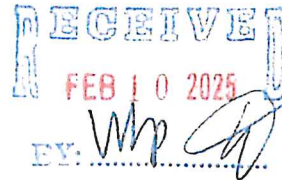
Adrienne N. Berg
Project Manager
South Alabama Branch
Regulatory Division

Attachments



SPEAKS & ASSOCIATES
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.
732 OAK CIRCLE DRIVE WEST
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36609
PHONE: (251) 666-4646 FAX: (251) 666-8868

Mikell D. Speaks, PE/PLS (1941-2022)
William G. Luker, PE/PLS
J. William Parkes, PE
John A. Sprinkle, PE
Jeremy O. Turner, EI



February 4, 2025

Mr. William Pearson, Field Supervisor
U. S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
1208 Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526-4419

2025-0054891

RE: CWM Water Authority AMR Water Meter Replacement

Dear Mr. Pearson:

Speaks & Associates is in the process of preparing an Environmental Information Document (EID) for the project referenced above to obtain funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). This document will be reviewed by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) so that they may assess the environmental impacts of the project. The proposed project consists of replacement of approximately 590 each 3/4-inch meters with a new meter and AMR transmitter, replacement of backflow preventors and curb stops where required, addition of a new AMR type transmitter on meters larger than 3/4-inch which serve high volume users (where required, the meter and backflow preventor will be replaced), new AMR system hardware for reading the meters and communicating the meter reading to the system billing software (this will include all hardware, software and staff training). On-site construction will consist of removing the existing meter from the existing water meter box and installing the new water meter in the existing box. For the replacement of the water meters, all construction/maintenance will be clear of existing wetlands, flood zone areas, and any threatened or endangered wildlife species. We have enclosed an overall water system overview map for your use.

We request the assistance of your office in reviewing the information we have provided for compliance with the regulations. Please provide concurrence for the project or recommendations or comments you deem appropriate. This information is vital to the further processing of our funding application. Therefore, we would appreciate a response. Please contact me at 251-666-4646 if you need any additional information or wish to discuss the project further.

Sincerely,

Speaks & Associates
Consulting Engineers, Inc.

William G. Luker, PE/PLS
WGL/jlm
Enclosures

Cc: Jack Mobley, ADEM
Levoyd Bradford, CWM Water System Chairman



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 <https://www.fws.gov/project/best-management-practices-alabama/>).

William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

FEB 18 2025
Date

#3