

**EDWARD F. POOLOS**  
DIRECTOR

**JEFFERY W. KITCHENS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



**KAY IVEY**  
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
[adem.alabama.gov](http://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

The City of Cullman  
Cullman County

SRF Project No. FS010064-07

April 22, 2026

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made **\$10,150,000** in financial assistance available to **The City of Cullman** using funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan program (**DWSRF**). 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 Cullman proposes a project to upgrade the primary transmission main and distribution system. The project includes replacing the transmission main from the treatment plant to the distribution system. Completion of this project will reduce water loss and ensure reliable safe drinking water.

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 Branch, 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 this CE. 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.

Edward F. Poolos  
Director

EFP/MDM/CRJ

Attachment



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

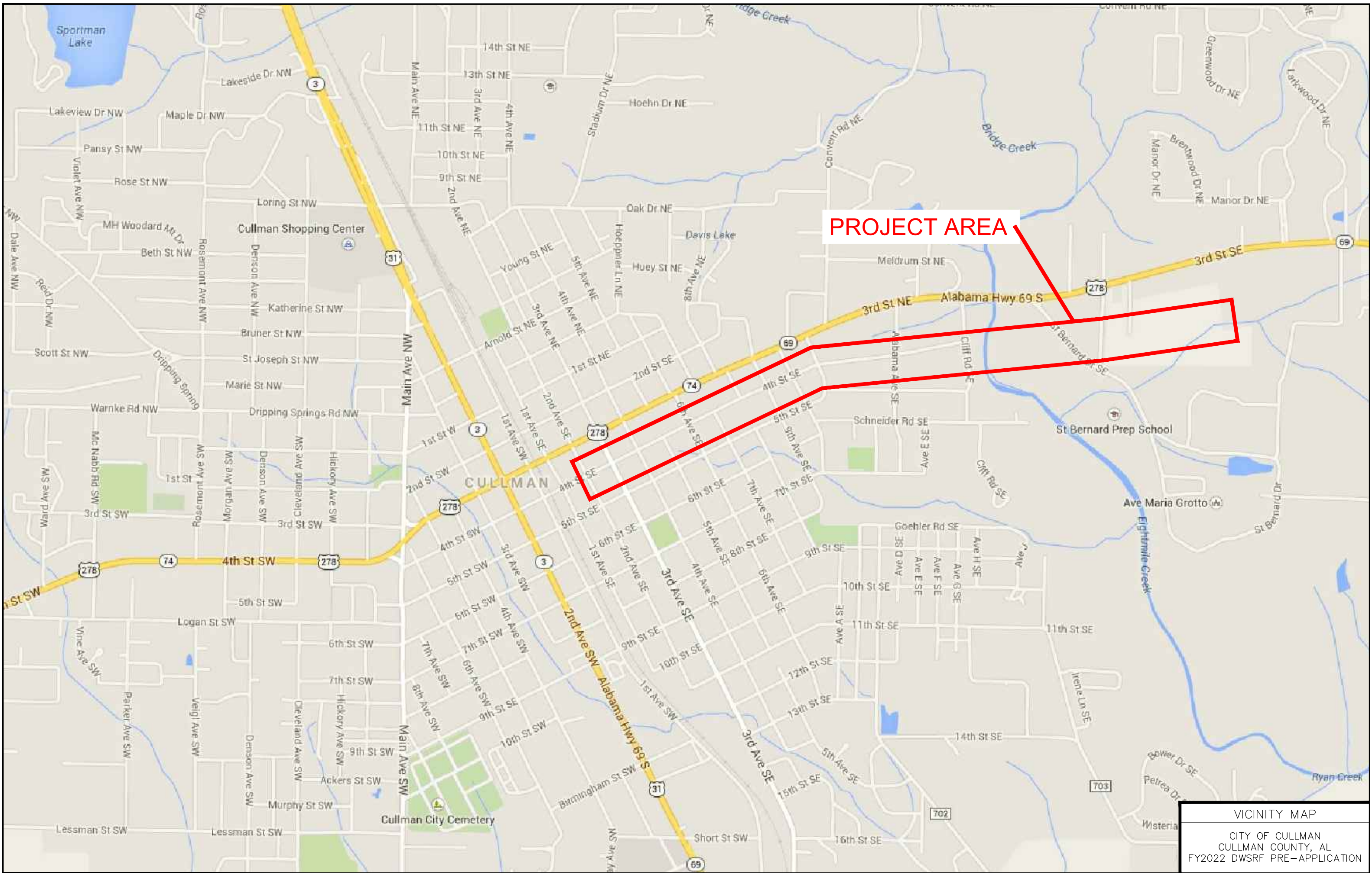
**Decatur Office**  
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.  
Decatur, AL 35603-1333  
(256) 353-1713  
(256) 340-9359 (FAX)

**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 C: Categorical Exclusions for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Projects: (Italicized sections apply.)

1. The following drinking water projects are eligible for categorical exclusions:
  - a. *Actions intended solely for minor rehabilitation, functional replacement, or ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.*
  - b. Minor construction, including:
    1. New wells or replacement wells for water supply purposes if ancillary to the existing system;
    2. Improvements not intended to increase capacity of the system;
    3. Facilities for the disinfection of public water supplies;
    4. Facilities such as looping that will result solely in the provision of adequate public water system pressure;
    5. *Construction of water tanks;*
    6. Construction of new water lines in previously disturbed areas within one mile of the existing distribution system.
  - c. Projects where funding is being provided for planning and/or engineering costs only (in which case the requirements of IV.C.1.a-d do not apply).
2. In order to determine if a drinking water project is eligible for a CE, all of the following must not apply:
  - a. The action is known or expected to directly or indirectly adversely impact any of the following:
    1. Cultural or historical resources;
    2. Endangered or Threatened Species and/or their critical habitats;
    3. Environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, prime agricultural land, or aquifer recharge zones.
  - b. The action is not cost effective.
  - c. The action will cause significant public controversy.
  - d. The action will create a new or expanded surface drinking water source.

This project complies with the above requirements and has been determined to be eligible for a Categorical Exclusion.



PROJECT AREA

VICINITY MAP  
CITY OF CULLMAN  
CULLMAN COUNTY, AL  
FY2022 DWSRF PRE-APPLICATION





August 12, 2025

Ms. Amanda McBride  
Program Head, Review & Compliance Division  
Alabama Historical Commission  
468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Re: Funding Application Concurrence Request – Primary Water Transmission Pipeline  
City of Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama

Dear Ms. McBride:

St. John & Associates, Inc. has been retained by the City of Cullman, Alabama to assist in the application for funding from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. Funding is intended for replacement of the primary water transmission pipeline from the water treatment plant to the distribution system. Application for funding requires the preparation of an Environmental Information Document (EID). This document reviews and evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed projects that will be included in the capital improvements program.

Improvements will occur within the existing footprint of the City's distribution system and will include replacement of approximately 9,100 linear feet of 30-inch transmission pipeline from the water treatment plant to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE in downtown Cullman. The existing pipeline has been in service since the plant construction in 1966; it is constructed from rolled and welded steel (RWSP). Utilization of this material for water distribution pipelines preceded the advent of ductile iron pipe and was preferred for its ductility and yield strength. However, thin-walled RWSP pipe is subject to fractures resulting from fabrication and assembly flaws, such as strain aging from cold rolling and weld cracks at joints and seams. As a result, conclusive identification of pipe defects during the repair of leaks is more difficult. Nearly 60-years old, the pipeline has well-exceeded its useful service life.

The proposed pipeline replacement will occur within areas previously disturbed for construction of underground utilities within easements or public right-of-way. A preliminary plan and profile for the pipeline replacement is attached for reference.

In order to maintain critical water infrastructure and ensure effective operation of the system, the proposed improvements in the project are intended to reduce unaccounted water loss and improve service to existing customers. Best management practices will be implemented and monitored throughout the projects' construction in order to prevent adverse and unnecessary impacts to the environment.

As part of this program's EID, we are requesting your review in the area of concern to your agency. We would also ask that you provide a letter of your concurrence if possible. We would appreciate a response no later than September 26, 2025, in order to meet our deadlines in the SRF loan application process. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. I may be contacted by office phone or email ((256) 734-2114; [david@sjaonline.com](mailto:david@sjaonline.com)).

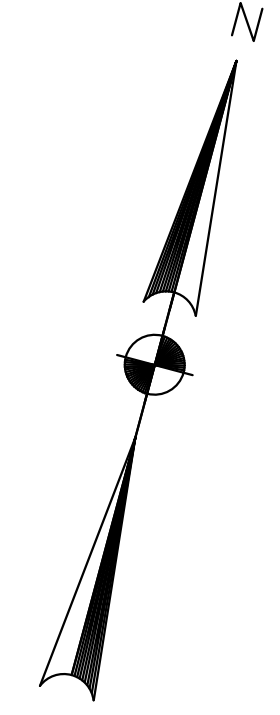
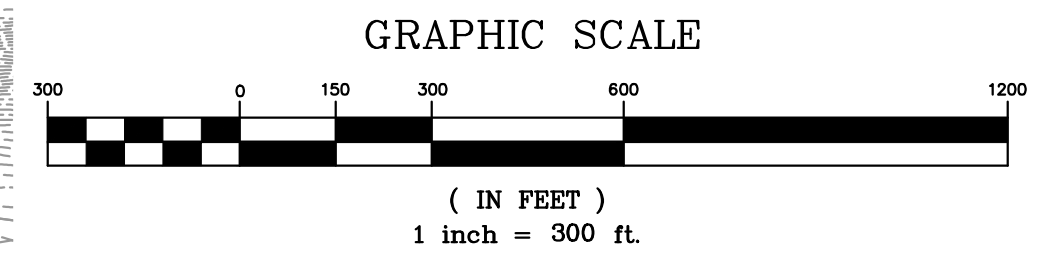
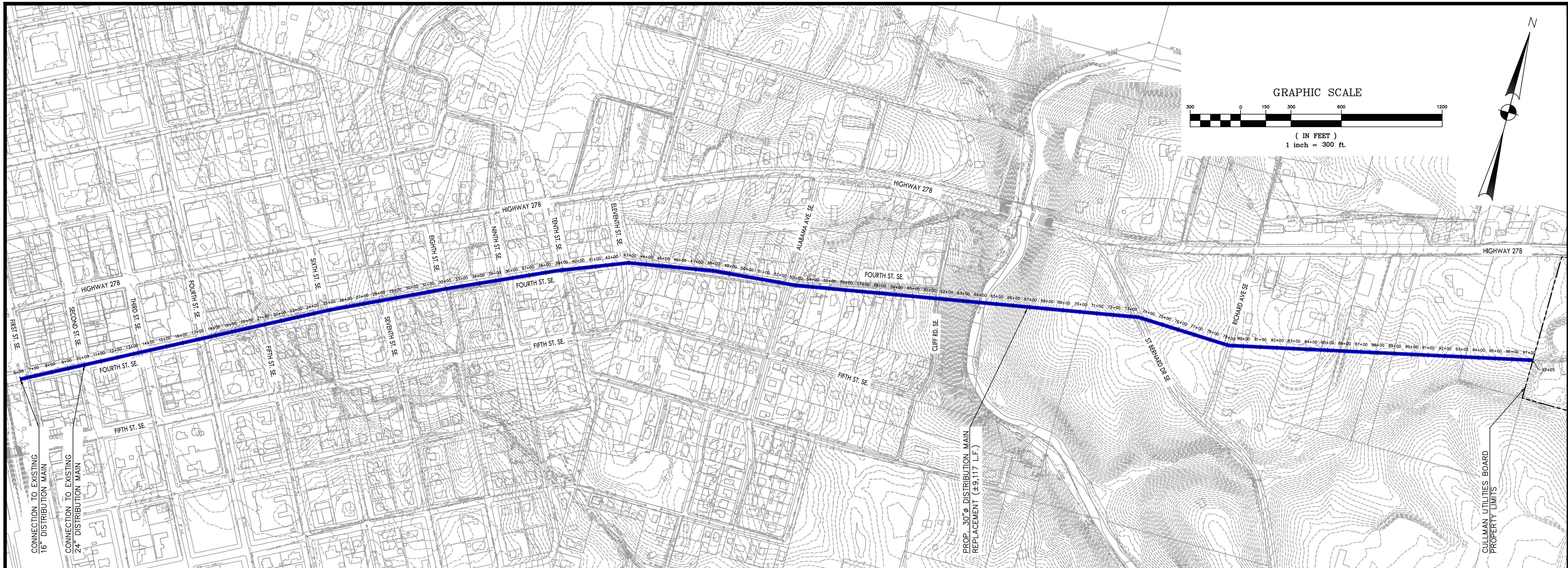
Sincerely,  
St. John & Associates, Inc.



David Q. Haynes, P.E.  
President

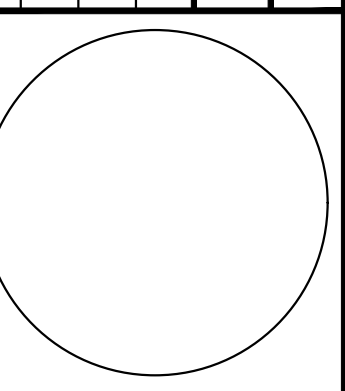
Attachment – City of Cullman; Primary Water Transmission Pipeline Replacement: Project Map  
Plan & Profile (February 20, 2025)

cc. Woody Jacobs, Mayor  
File



**ST. JOHN & ASSOCIATES**  
30 YEARS PLANNING & DESIGN

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APP'D BY

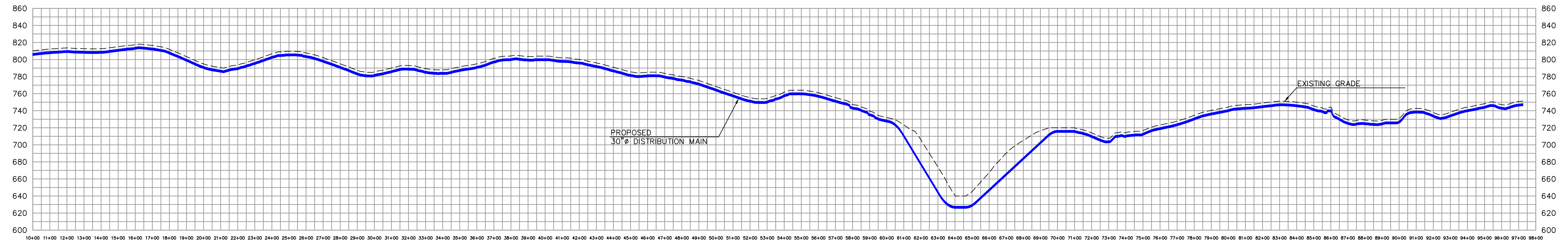


<b>St. John &amp; Associates, Inc.</b> Consulting Engineers and Planners Cullman, Alabama 508 FIRST AVENUE S.E., CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055 (256) 734-2114		DESIGNED BY DAB APPROVED BY DQH
DRAWN BY HMM DATE 2/20/25	SCALE HORIZ. 1" = 300'; VERT. 1" = 60'	

**City of Cullman**  
Primary Water Transmission Pipeline Replacement  
CULLMAN, ALABAMA

**PROJECT MAP PLAN & PROFILE**

JOB NO.	1580
SHEET	1 OF 1
REV.	0





# 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

August 15, 2025

David Haynes  
508 First Avenue SE  
Cullman, AL 35055

Re: AHC 25-1060  
Primary Water Transmission Pipeline Replacement  
Cullman County

Dear Mr. Haynes:

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](mailto:Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov). Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Anne Hewett".

Lee Anne Hewett  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAH/AMH/nj



August 12, 2025

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

Re: Funding Application Concurrence Request – Primary Water Transmission Pipeline  
City of Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Pearson:

St. John & Associates, Inc. has been retained by the City of Cullman, Alabama to assist in the application for funding from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. Funding is intended for replacement of the primary water transmission pipeline from the water treatment plant to the distribution system. Application for funding requires the preparation of an Environmental Information Document (EID). This document reviews and evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed projects that will be included in the capital improvements program.

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As part of this program's EID, we are requesting your review in the area of concern to your agency. We would also ask that you provide a letter of your concurrence if possible. We would appreciate a response no later than September 26, 2025, in order to meet our deadlines in the SRF loan application process. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. I may be contacted by office phone or email ((256) 734-2114; [david@sjaonline.com](mailto:david@sjaonline.com)).

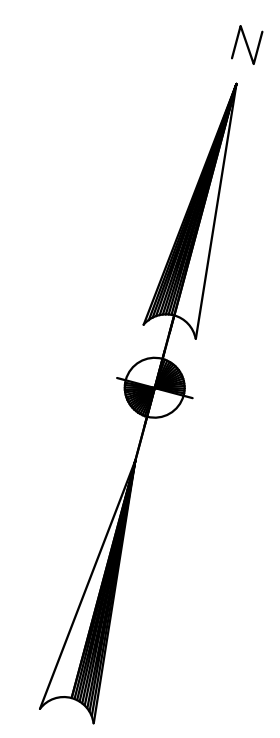
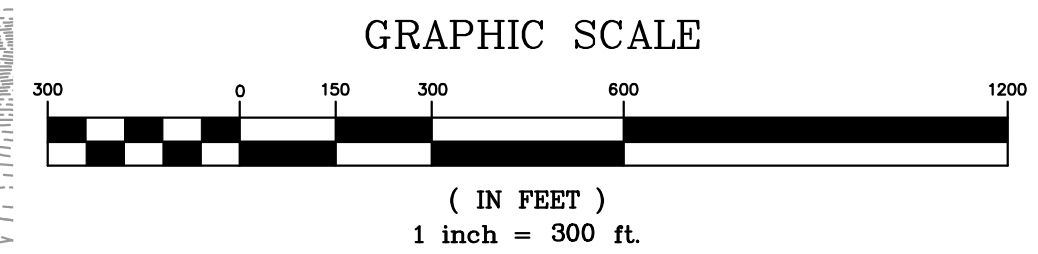
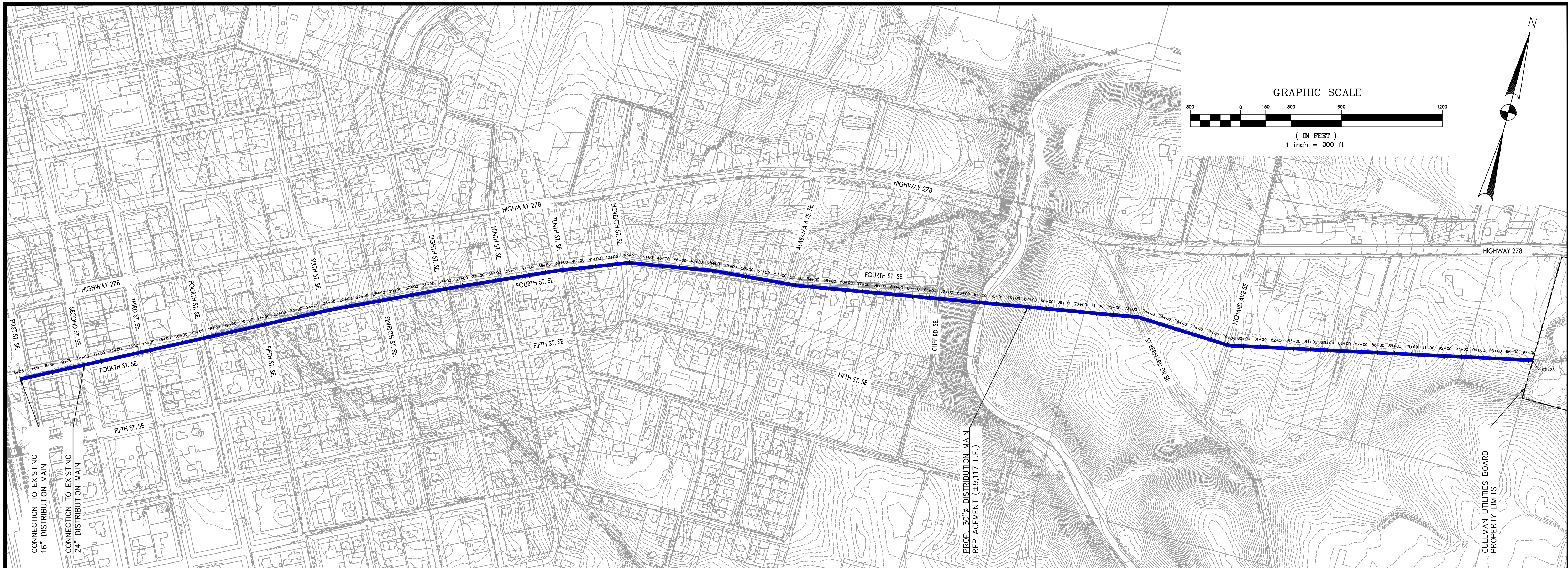
Sincerely,  
St. John & Associates, Inc.



David Q. Haynes, P.E.  
President

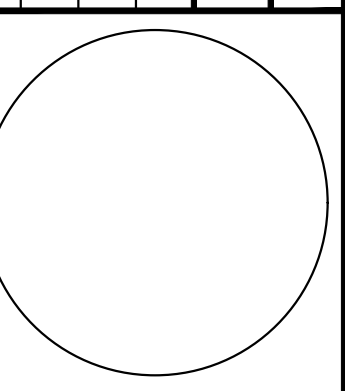
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cc. Woody Jacobs, Mayor  
File

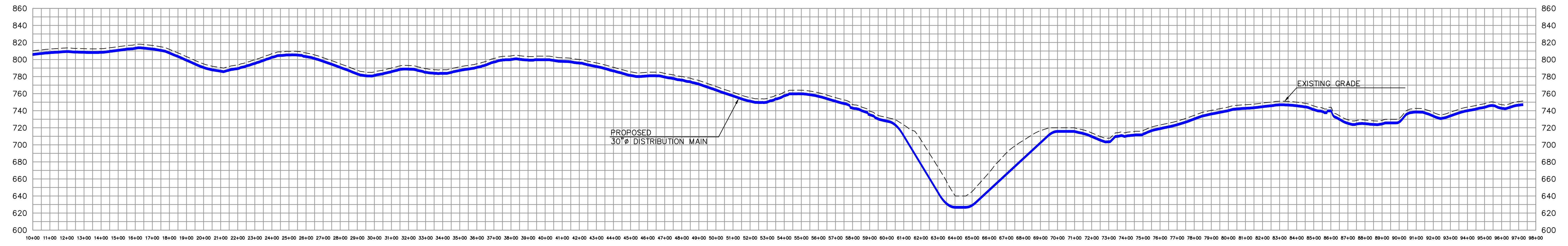


**ST. JOHN & ASSOCIATES**  
30 YEARS PLANNING & DESIGN

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<b>St. John &amp; Associates, Inc.</b> Consulting Engineers and Planners Cullman, Alabama 508 FIRST AVENUE S.E., CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055 (256) 734-2114	
DRAWN BY: HMH DATE: 2/20/25	DESIGNED BY: DAB SCALE: HORIZ. 1" = 300'; VERT. 1" = 60'
APPROVED BY: DQH	APPROVED BY: DQH



**City of Cullman**  
CULLMAN, ALABAMA  
Primary Water Transmission Pipeline Replacement

JOB NO.	1580
SHEET	1 OF 1
REV.	0

**PROJECT MAP PLAN & PROFILE**

BBJ RECEIVED  
AUG 18 2025  
BY: [Signature]



ST. JOHN  
& ASSOCIATES

August 12, 2025

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

Re: Funding Application Concurrence Request – Primary Water Transmission Pipeline  
City of Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama

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In order to maintain critical water infrastructure and ensure effective operation of the system, the proposed improvements in the project are intended to reduce unaccounted water loss and improve service to existing customers. Best management practices will be implemented and monitored throughout the projects' construction in order to prevent adverse and unnecessary impacts to the environment.

As part of this program's EID, we are requesting your review in the area of concern to your agency. We would also ask that you provide a letter of your concurrence if possible. We would appreciate a response no later than September 26, 2025, in order to meet our deadlines in the SRF loan application process. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. I may be contacted by office phone or email ((256) 734-2114; [david@sjaonline.com](mailto: david@sjaonline.com)).

Sincerely,  
St. John & Associates, Inc.



David Q. Haynes, P.E.  
President

Attachment – City of Cullman; Primary Water Transmission Pipeline Replacement: Project Map Plan & Profile (February 20, 2025)

cc. Woody Jacobs, Mayor  
File



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. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT NEW PLANS FOR REVIEW. SITE MAY CONTAIN WETLANDS. Contact U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a jurisdictional wetlands determination. We recommend the use of best management practices specific to your project (See <https://www.fws.gov/project/best-management-practices-2014>)

  
William J. Pearson

Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

SEP 23 2025

Date

# 4



August 12, 2025

Ms. Leslie E. Turney  
Chief, North Branch – Mobile District: Regulatory Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
600 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 203  
Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216

Re: Funding Application Concurrence Request – Primary Water Transmission Pipeline  
City of Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama

Dear Ms. Turney:

St. John & Associates, Inc. has been retained by the City of Cullman, Alabama to assist in the application for funding from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. Funding is intended for replacement of the primary water transmission pipeline from the water treatment plant to the distribution system. Application for funding requires the preparation of an Environmental Information Document (EID). This document reviews and evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed projects that will be included in the capital improvements program.

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The proposed pipeline replacement will occur within areas previously disturbed for construction of underground utilities within easements or public right-of-way. A preliminary plan and profile for the pipeline replacement is attached for reference. As illustrated, the proposed

project will require work within waters of the U.S.; permitting for this work will be completed upon determination of alignment and final design for the pipeline replacement.

In order to maintain critical water infrastructure and ensure effective operation of the system, the proposed improvements in the project are intended to reduce unaccounted water loss and improve service to existing customers. Best management practices will be implemented and monitored throughout the projects' construction in order to prevent adverse and unnecessary impacts to the environment.

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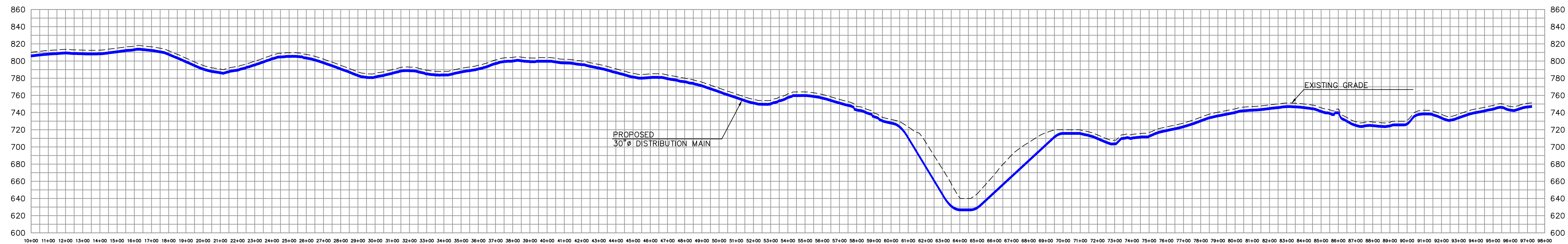
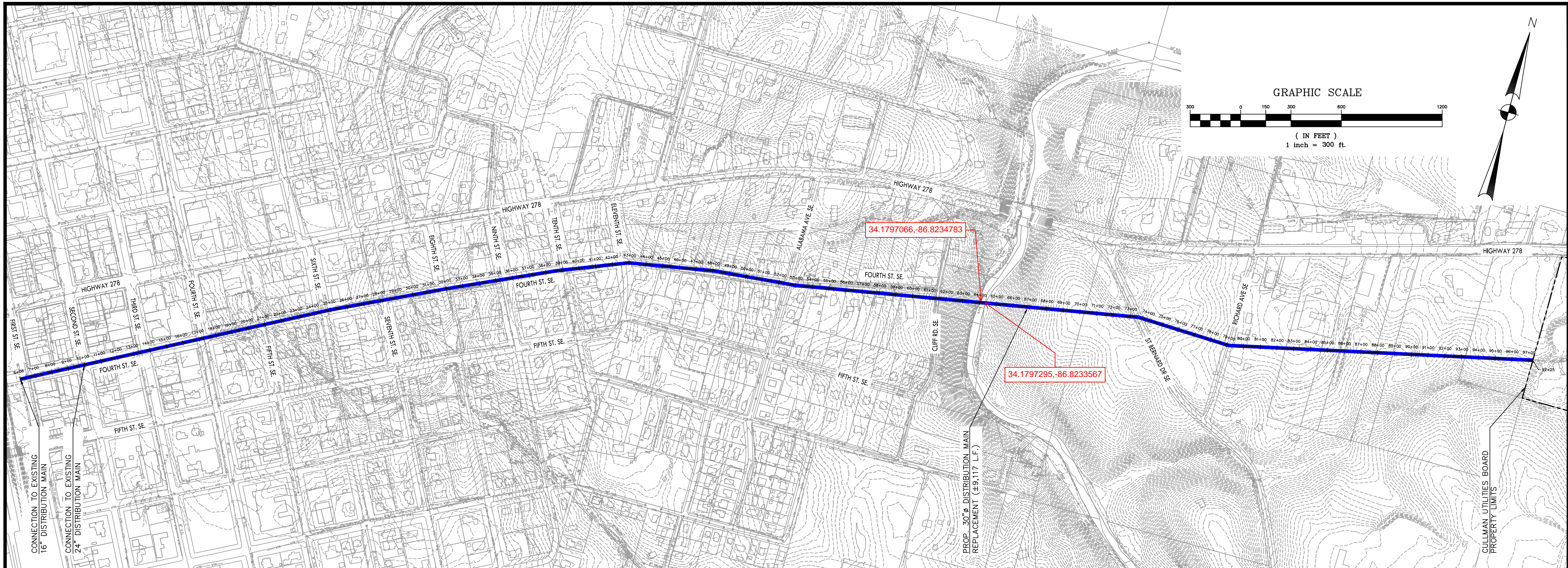
Sincerely,  
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David Q. Haynes, P.E.  
President

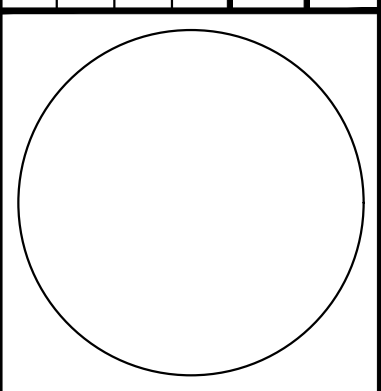
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30 YEARS PLANNING & DESIGN

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPD BY



<b>St. John &amp; Associates, Inc.</b> Consulting Engineers and Planners Cullman, Alabama 508 FIRST AVENUE S.E., CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055 (256) 734-2114		DESIGNED BY DAB APPROVED BY DQH
DRAWN BY HMH DATE 2/20/25	SCALE HORIZ. 1" = 300'; VERT. 1" = 60'	

**City of Cullman**  
 Primary Water Transmission Pipeline Replacement  
 CULLMAN, ALABAMA

**PROJECT MAP PLAN & PROFILE**

JOB NO.	1580
SHEET	1 OF 1
REV.	0



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT  
600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203  
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216

August 22, 2025

North Branch  
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army File Number SAM-2025- 00624-LET, City of Cullman – primary water transmission line replacement, Cullman County, Alabama

City of Cullman  
% St. John and Associates  
Attention: Mr. David Q. Haynes, PE  
508 First Avenue Southeast  
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Transmitted electronically to david@sjaonline.com

Dear Mr. Haynes:

This is in response to your August 12, 2025 letter, submitted on behalf of the City of Cullman, requesting Department of Army (DA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) review and comments regarding the proposed replacement of approximately 9,100 linear feet of the city water system's 30-inch primary water transmission pipeline. The water line replacement would extend from the water treatment plant at 1740 3rd Street Southeast to 1st Avenue Southeast, with work centered near latitude 34.181253 North, longitude - 86.825235 West crossing Eightmile Creek in Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama. This project has been assigned file number SAM-2025-00624-LET which should be referenced in all future correspondence regarding this project.

The USACE has regulatory responsibilities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA)(33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) (33 U.S.C. 403). Under Section 404 of the CWA, a Department of the Army (DA) permit is required for the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands, prior to conducting work. For regulatory purposes, the 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. Under Section 10 of the RHA, a DA permit would be required prior to conducting any work that would affect the navigable capacity of a waterway as a result of work occurring in, over, or under navigable waters of the U.S. There are no Section 10 regulated navigable waters in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Based on our review of the information you provided and other publicly available mapping resources, it appears the water line replacement project could impact Eightmile Creek and any potentially associated wetlands. However, without a formal delineation of wetlands and waters along the project alignment and more specific information regarding the installation methods that would be employed to replace the pipeline crossing the creek,

we are unable to determine if a Department of the Army permit would be required. If there would be no discharge of fill material into wetlands or waters, then no DA permit is required

Nationwide Permit 3 (NWP 3) for Maintenance activities may be applicable to any portions of the proposed water line replacement work that could impact waters of the U.S.; therefore, a copy of NWP 3 is enclosed for reference as further planning, design and implementation of the proposed work is undertaken. Please be aware that the conditions of NWP 3 would require an applicant to submit a pre-construction notification (PCN) to this office, and receive written verification of coverage under the permit prior to commencing work where the removal of accumulated sediments and debris outside the immediate vicinity of existing structures such as bridges, culverted road crossings, water intake structures and associated outfall structures is required, or more specifically, the activities covered under paragraph (b) of Nationwide Permit 3

Additional factors that could trigger the need for PCN, where impacts to waters of the U.S. would occur, include: (1) if the proposed work would potentially affect federally listed threatened and endangered species and/or their designated critical habitats, (2) if the work would affect known historic properties or cultural resource sites or such sites that are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and (3) if the work would affect Federal navigation project waters such as the Black Warrior River, Locust Fork, or Mulberry Fork. If wetlands or waters are present but none of the aforementioned conditions would be triggered by the proposed work, the work may already be authorized under NWP 3 provided it would be conducted in compliance with all terms and conditions in the attached copy of the Nationwide 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 approvals required by law for the activities discussed above.

We appreciate your cooperation with the USACE Regulatory Program. Please contact me at (205) 213-9623 or at [leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil](mailto:leslie.e.turney@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,

**Leslie E.**

**Turney**

Leslie E. Turney  
Chief, North Branch

Digitally signed by

Leslie E. Turney

Date: 2025.08.22

17:36:28 -05'00'

Enclosures



U S Army Corps of  
Engineers

# 2021 Nationwide Permit Summary

33 CFR Part 330; Issuance of Nationwide  
Permits – February 25, 2022

### 3. Maintenance.

(a) The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized, currently serviceable structure or fill, or of any currently serviceable structure or fill authorized by 33 CFR 330.3, provided that the structure or fill is not to be put to uses differing from those uses specified or contemplated for it in the original permit or the most recently authorized modification. Minor deviations in the structure's configuration or filled area, including those due to changes in materials, construction techniques, requirements of other regulatory agencies, or current construction codes or safety standards that are necessary to make the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are authorized. This NWP also authorizes the removal of previously authorized structures or fills. Any stream channel modification is limited to the minimum necessary for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of the structure or fill; such modifications, including the removal of material from the stream channel, must be immediately adjacent to the project. This NWP also authorizes the removal of accumulated sediment and debris within, and in the immediate vicinity of, the structure or fill. This NWP also authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of those structures or fills destroyed or damaged by storms, floods, fire or other discrete events, provided the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is commenced, or is under contract to commence, within two years of the date of their destruction or damage. In cases of catastrophic events, such as hurricanes or tornadoes, this two-year limit may be waived by the district engineer, provided the permittee can demonstrate funding, contract, or other similar delays.

(b) This NWP also authorizes the removal of accumulated sediments and debris outside the immediate vicinity of existing structures (e.g., bridges, culverted road crossings, water intake structures, etc.). The removal of sediment is limited to the minimum necessary to restore the waterway in the vicinity of the structure to the approximate dimensions that existed when the structure was built, but cannot extend farther than 200 feet in any direction from the structure. This 200 foot limit does not apply to maintenance dredging to remove accumulated sediments blocking or restricting outfall and intake structures or to maintenance dredging to remove accumulated sediments from canals associated with outfall and intake structures. All dredged or excavated materials must be

deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization.

(c) This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the maintenance activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After conducting the maintenance activity, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to preconstruction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

(d) This NWP does not authorize maintenance dredging for the primary purpose of navigation. This NWP does not authorize beach restoration. This NWP does not authorize new stream channelization or stream relocation projects.

**Notification:** For activities authorized by paragraph (b) of this NWP, the permittee must submit a preconstruction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see general condition 32). The pre-construction notification must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of the outfalls, intakes, small impoundments, and canals. (Authorities: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Sections 10 and 404)).

**Note:** This NWP authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized structure or fill that does not qualify for the Clean Water Act Section 404(f) exemption for maintenance.

### A. Regional Conditions

1. [Alabama Water Quality Certification - See Attached](#)

### B. Nationwide Permit General Conditions

Note: To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer. Prospective permittees should contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine if regional conditions have been imposed on an NWP. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an NWP.

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Every person who may wish to obtain permit authorization under one or more NWP's, or who is currently relying on an existing or prior permit authorization under one or more NWP's, has been and is on notice that all of the provisions of 33 CFR 330.1 through 330.6 apply to every NWP authorization. Note especially 33 CFR 330.5 relating to the modification, suspension, or revocation of any NWP authorization.

- 1. **Navigation.**
  - (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.
  - (b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.
  - (c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his or her authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.
- 2. **Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.
- 3. **Spawning Areas.** Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.
- 4. **Migratory Bird Breeding Areas.** Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
- 5. **Shellfish Beds.** No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP's 4 and 48, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.
- 6. **Suitable Material.** No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic

pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

- 7. **Water Supply Intakes.** No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.
- 8. **Adverse Effects From Impoundments.** If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
- 9. **Management of Water Flows.** To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).
- 10. **Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains.** The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.
- 11. **Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
- 12. **Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow, or during low tides.
- 13. **Removal of Temporary Fills.** Temporary structures must be removed, to the maximum extent practicable, after their use has been discontinued. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.
- 14. **Proper Maintenance.** Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.
- 15. **Single and Complete Project.** The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.
- 16. **Wild and Scenic Rivers.**
  - (a) No NWP activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for

possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(b) If a proposed NWP activity will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the PCN with the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river. Permittees shall not begin the NWP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed NWP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: <https://www.rivers.gov/>.

17. **Tribal Rights.** No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

18. **Endangered Species.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation. No activity is authorized under any NWP which “may affect” a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. See 50 CFR 402.02 for the definition of “effects of the action” for the purposes of ESA section 7 consultation, as well as 50 CFR 402.17, which provides further explanation under ESA section 7 regarding “activities that are reasonably certain to occur” and “consequences caused by the proposed action.”

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary

for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity “may affect” or will have “no effect” to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps’ determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. For activities where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have “no effect” on listed species (or species proposed for listing or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), or until ESA section 7 consultation or conference has been completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation or conference with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the NWPs.

(e) Authorization of an activity by an NWP does not authorize the “take” of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with “incidental take” provisions, etc.) from the FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word “harm” in the definition of “take” means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by

significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed NWP activity, the non-federal applicant should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the PCN required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed NWP activity. The district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed NWP activity or whether an additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their world wide web pages at <https://www.fws.gov/> or <https://www.fws.gov/ipac/> and <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/endangered-species-conservation> respectively.

**19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles.** The permittee is responsible for ensuring that an action authorized by an NWP complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds or eagles, including whether "incidental take" permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

**20. Historic Properties.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which may have the potential to cause effects to properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed NWP activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance

with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties might have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of, or potential for, the presence of historic properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts commensurate with potential impacts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and/or field survey. Based on the information submitted in the PCN and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed NWP activity has the potential to cause effects on the historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under 36 CFR 800.2(c) when he or she makes any of the following effect determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: no historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or a adverse effect.

(d) Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the proposed NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects and has so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects to historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed. For non-federal permittees, the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA section 106 consultation is required. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required,

the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110(k) of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306113) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

21. **Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts.** Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by an NWP, they must immediately notify the district engineer of what they have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the Federal, Tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

22. **Designated Critical Resource Waters.** Critical resource waters include, NOAA-managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource waters or state natural heritage sites. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 57 and 58 for any activity within, or directly affecting critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed by permittees in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after she or he determines that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

23. **Mitigation.** The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining a appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

(d) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. This compensatory mitigation requirement may be satisfied through the restoration or enhancement of riparian areas next to streams in accordance with paragraph (e) of this general condition. For losses of stream bed of 3/100-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, since streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 CFR 332.3(e)(3)).

(e) Compensatory mitigation plans for NWP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. If restoring riparian areas involves planting vegetation, only native species should be planted. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the NWPs, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see 33 CFR 332.3(b)(2) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the PCN is submitted to the district engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see 33 CFR 330.1(e)(3)). (See also 33 CFR 332.3(f).)

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)). If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, and the proposed compensatory mitigation site is located on land in which another federal agency holds an easement, the district engineer will coordinate with that federal agency to determine if proposed compensatory mitigation project is compatible with the terms of the easement.

(5) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan needs to address only the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any NWP activity resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an NWP activity already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the NWPs.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at 33 CFR 332.3(b). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for

the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

24. **Safety of Impoundment Structures.** To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-Federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state or federal, dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

25. **Water Quality.**

(a) Where the certifying authority (state, authorized tribe, or EPA, as appropriate) has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, a CWA section 401 water quality certification for the proposed discharge must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a water quality certification previously issued by certifying authority for the issuance of the NWP, then the permittee must obtain a water quality certification or waiver for the proposed discharge in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP.

(b) If the NWP activity requires pre-construction notification and the certifying authority has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, the proposed discharge is not authorized by an NWP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge is not authorized by an NWP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality certification requirement has been satisfied by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver.

(c) The district engineer or certifying authority may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

26. **Coastal Zone Management.** In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a coastal zone management consistency concurrence previously issued by the state, then the permittee must obtain an individual coastal zone management consistency concurrence or presumption of concurrence in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP. The district engineer or a state may

require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

27. **Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.** The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its CWA section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

28. **Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.** The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is authorized, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) If only one of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has a specified acreage limit, the acreage loss of waters of the United States cannot exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

(b) If one or more of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has specified acreage limits, the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by those NWPs cannot exceed their respective specified acreage limits. For example, if a commercial development is constructed under NWP 39, and the single and complete project includes the filling of an upland ditch authorized by NWP 46, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the commercial development under NWP 39 cannot exceed 1/2-acre, and the total acreage loss of waters of United States due to the NWP 39 and 46 activities cannot exceed 1 acre.

29. **Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications.** If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

“When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Transferee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**30. Compliance Certification.** Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The success of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

(a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;

(b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(l)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and

(c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation.

The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

**31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States.** If an NWP activity also requires review by, or permission from, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project"), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission and/or review is not authorized by an NWP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission or completes its review to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written NWP verification.

**32. Pre-Construction Notification.**

(a) **Timing.** Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of

the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either:

(1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or

(2) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) **Contents of Pre-Construction Notification:** The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed activity;

(3) Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;

(4)

(i) A description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and any other NWP(s), regional

general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures.

(ii) For linear projects where one or more single and complete crossings require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters (including those single and complete crossings authorized by an NWP but do not require PCNs). This information will be used by the district engineer to evaluate the cumulative adverse environmental effects of the proposed linear project, and does not change those non-PCN NWP activities into NWP PCNs.

(iii) Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);

(5) The PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial and intermittent streams, on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate;

(6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(7) For non-federal permittees, if a any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

(8) For non-federal permittees, if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;

(9) For an activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the “study river” (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an NWP activity that requires permission from, or review by, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the pre-construction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from, or review by, the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

(c) Form of Pre-Construction Notification: The nationwide permit pre-construction notification form (Form ENG 6082) should be used for NWP PCNs. A letter containing the required information may also be used. Applicants may provide electronic files of PCNs and supporting materials if the district engineer has established tools and procedures for electronic submittals.

- (d) Agency Coordination:
  - (1) The district engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWP and the need for mitigation to reduce the activity's adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.
  - (2) Agency coordination is required for: (i) all NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States; (ii) NWP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and (iii) NWP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.
  - (3) When a agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via e-mail, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or e-mail that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWP, including the need for mitigation to ensure that the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.
  - (4) In cases of where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will

provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

- (5) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

### C. District Engineer's Decision

- 1. In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If a project proponent requests authorization by a specific NWP, the district engineer should issue the NWP verification for that activity if it meets the terms and conditions of that NWP, unless he or she determines, after considering mitigation, that the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment and other aspects of the public interest and exercises discretionary authority to require an individual permit for the proposed activity. For a linear project, this determination will include an evaluation of the single and complete crossings of waters of the United States that require PCNs to determine whether they individually satisfy the terms and conditions of the NWP(s), as well as the cumulative effects caused by all of the crossings of waters of the United States authorized by an NWP. If an applicant requests a waiver of an applicable limit, as provided for in NWP 13, 36, or 54, the district engineer will only grant the waiver upon a written determination that the NWP activity will result in only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.
- 2. When making minimal adverse environmental effects determinations the district engineer will consider the direct and indirect effects caused by the NWP activity. He or she will also consider the cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by an NWP and whether those cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. The district engineer will also consider site specific factors, such as the environmental setting in the vicinity of the NWP activity, the type of resource that will be affected by the NWP activity, the functions provided by the aquatic resources that will be affected by the NWP activity, the degree or magnitude to which the aquatic resources perform those functions, the extent that aquatic resource functions will be lost as a result of the NWP activity (e.g., partial or complete loss), the duration of the adverse effects (temporary or permanent), the importance of the aquatic resource functions to the region (e.g., watershed or ecoregion), and mitigation required by the district engineer. If an appropriate functional or condition assessment method is available and practicable to use, that assessment method may be used by the district engineer to assist in the minimal adverse environmental effects determination. The district engineer may add case-specific special conditions to the NWP authorization to address site-specific environmental concerns.

□ 3. If the proposed activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for NWP activities with smaller impacts, or for impacts to other types of waters. The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any activity-specific conditions in the NWP verification the district engineer deems necessary. Conditions for compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with the appropriate provisions at 33 CFR 332.3(k). The district engineer must approve the final mitigation plan before the permittee commences work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure that the NWP activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. If the net adverse environmental effects of the NWP activity (after consideration of the mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be no more than minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the NWP activity can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP, including any activity-specific conditions added to the NWP authorization by the district engineer.

□ 4. If the district engineer determines that the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either: (a) that the activity does not qualify for a authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek a authorization under an individual permit; (b) that the activity is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal; or (c) that the activity is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period (unless additional time is required to comply with general conditions 18, 20, and/or 31), with activity-specific conditions that state the mitigation requirements. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or detailed mitigation plan or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

When compensatory mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan or has determined that prior approval of a final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation.

#### **D. Further Information**

1. District engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project (see general condition 31).

#### **E. Nationwide Permit Definitions**

**Best management practices (BMPs):** Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

**Compensatory mitigation:** The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

**Currently serviceable:** Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

**Direct effects:** Effects that are caused by the activity and occur at the same time and place.

**Discharge:** The term "discharge" means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

**Ecological reference:** A model used to plan and design an aquatic habitat and riparian area restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity under NWP 27. An ecological reference may be based on the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic habitat type or a riparian area type that currently exists in the region where the proposed NWP 27 activity is located. Alternatively, an ecological reference may be based on a conceptual model for the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type to be restored, enhanced, or established as a result of the proposed NWP 27 activity. An ecological reference takes into account the range of variation of the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type in the region.

**Enhancement:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s) but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in an aquatic resource area.

**Establishment (creation):** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in an aquatic resource area.

**High Tide Line:** The line of intersection of the land with the water's surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high tide line may be determined, in the absence of actual data, by a line of oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical markings or characteristics, vegetation lines, tidal gauges, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency but does not include storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the tide due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

**Historic Property:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR part 60).

**Independent utility:** A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete non-linear project in the Corps Regulatory Program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

**Indirect effects:** Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable.

**Loss of waters of the United States:** Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. The loss of stream bed includes the acres of stream bed that are permanently adversely affected by filling or excavation because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters or wetlands for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities that do not require Department of the Army authorization, such as activities eligible for exemptions

under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act, are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

**Navigable waters:** Waters subject to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These waters are defined at 33 CFR part 329.

**Non-tidal wetland:** A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

**Open water:** For purposes of the NWPs, an open water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high-water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of flowing or standing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of "open waters" include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

**Ordinary High Water Mark:** The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

**Perennial stream:** A perennial stream has surface water flowing continuously year-round during a typical year.

**Practicable:** Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

**Pre-construction notification:** A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Pre-construction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where pre-construction notification is not required, and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit.

**Preservation:** The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of an aquatic resource area or functions.

**Re-establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in an aquatic resource area and functions.

**Rehabilitation:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource.

Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Restoration:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: re-establishment and rehabilitation.

**Riffle and pool complex:** Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a course substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

**Riparian areas:** Riparian areas are lands next to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and marine waters with their adjacent wetlands, non-wetland waters, or uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 23).

**Shellfish seeding:** The placement of shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production. Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

**Single and complete linear project:** A linear project is a project constructed for the purpose of getting people, goods, or services from a point of origin to a terminal point, which often involves multiple crossings of one or more waterbodies at separate and distant locations. The term “single and complete project” is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

**Single and complete non-linear project:** For non-linear projects, the term “single and complete project” is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete non-linear project must have independent utility (see definition of “independent utility”). Single and complete non-linear projects may not be “piecemealed” to avoid the limits in an NWP authorization.

**Stormwater management:** Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

**Stormwater management facilities:** Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, storm water retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

**Stream bed:** The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high-water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high-water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

**Stream channelization:** The manipulation of a stream’s course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized jurisdictional stream remains a water of the United States.

**Structure:** An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, a aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

**Tidal wetland:** A tidal wetland is a jurisdictional wetland that is inundated by tidal waters. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line.

**Tribal lands:** Any lands title to which is either: 1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or 2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

**Tribal rights:** Those rights legally accruing to a tribe or tribes by virtue of inherent sovereign authority, unextinguished aboriginal title, treaty, statute, judicial decisions, executive order or a agreement, and that give rise to legally enforceable remedies.

**Vegetated shallows:** Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

**Waterbody:** For purposes of the NWPs, a waterbody is a “water of the United States.” If a wetland is adjacent to a waterbody determined to be a water of the United States, that waterbody and any adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)).



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December 14, 2020

Colonel Sebastien P. Joly  
Commander, Mobile District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 2288  
Mobile, AL 36628-0001

RE: Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) 2020 Proposed Issuance of Alabama Nationwide Permits (ALNWP) For Activities Within the State of Alabama

Dear Colonel Joly:

This office has completed a review of the above-referenced notice and all associated materials submitted related to the proposed ALNWP. Any comments made during the public notice period have also been forwarded to the Department for review.

1. Aids to Navigation
2. Structures in Artificial Canals
3. Maintenance
4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities
5. Scientific Measurement Devices
6. Survey Activities
7. Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
8. Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf
9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas
10. Mooring Buoys
11. Temporary Recreational Structures
12. Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities
13. Bank Stabilization
14. Linear Transportation Projects
15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas
17. Hydropower Projects
18. Minor Discharges
19. Minor Dredging
20. Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances
21. Surface Coal Mining Activities
22. Removal of Vessels
23. Approved Categorical Exclusions
24. Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs
25. Structural Discharges
26. [Reserved]
27. Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities
28. Modifications of Existing Marinas

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29. Residential Developments
30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
31. Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
32. Completed Enforcement Actions
33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
34. Cranberry Production Activities
35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins
36. Boat Ramps
37. Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation
38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
39. Commercial and Institutional Developments
40. Agricultural Activities
41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
42. Recreational Facilities
43. Stormwater Management Facilities
44. Mining Activities
45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
46. Discharges in Ditches
47. [Reserved]
48. Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities
49. Coal Remining Activities
50. Underground Coal Mining Activities
51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects
53. Removal of Low-Head Dams
54. Living Shorelines
- A. Seaweed Mariculture Activities
- B. Finfish Mariculture Activities
- C. Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities
- D. Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances
- E. Water Reclamation and Reuse Facilities

Because action pertinent to WQC is required by Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. Section 1251, et seq., we hereby issue certification that there is reasonable assurance that the discharge resulting from the proposed activities as submitted will not violate applicable water quality standards established under Section 303 of the CWA and Title 22, Section 22-22-9(g), Code of Alabama, 1975, provided the applicant acts in accordance with the following conditions as specified. We further certify that there are no applicable effluent limitations under Sections 301 and 302 nor applicable standards under Sections 306 and 307 of the CWA in regard to the activities specified. This certification shall expire at the same time as the expiration date for the above-referenced Alabama Nationwide Permits for activities within the State of Alabama.

To minimize adverse impacts to State waters, by copy of this letter we are requesting the Mobile District Corps of Engineers to incorporate the following as special conditions as appropriate to the type, location, scope, duration, and potential impact of each activity in Alabama authorized by the COE NWPs:

1. During project implementation, the applicant shall ensure compliance with applicable requirements of ADEM. Admin. Code Chapter 335-6-6 [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)], Chapter 335-6-10 (Water Quality Criteria), and Chapter 335-6-11 (Water Use Classifications for Interstate and Intrastate Waters).

2. ADEM permit coverage may be required prior to commencing and/or continuing certain activities/operations relating to or resulting from the project. If an applicant has any questions regarding ADEM regulated activity or the need for NPDES permit coverage, the applicant can contact ADEM's Water Division at (334) 271-7823. If an applicant has any questions regarding ADEM regulated activity or the need for air permit coverage, the applicant can contact ADEM's Air Division at (334) 271-7869. If the applicant has any questions regarding ADEM regulated activity or the need for hazardous, toxic, and/or solid waste permit coverage, the applicant can contact ADEM's Land Division at (334) 271-7730.
3. Upon the loss or failure of any treatment facility, Best Management Practice (BMP), or other control, the applicant shall, where necessary to maintain compliance with this certification, suspend, cease, reduce or otherwise control work/activity and all discharges until effective treatment is restored. It shall not be a defense for the applicant in a compliance action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce work or other activities in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this certification.
4. The applicant shall retain records adequate to document activities authorized by this certification for a period of at least three years after completion of work/activity authorized by the certification. Upon written request, the applicant shall provide ADEM with a copy of any record/information required to be retained by this paragraph.
5. The applicant shall conduct or have conducted, at a minimum, weekly comprehensive site inspections until completion of the proposed activity to ensure that effective BMPs are properly designed, implemented, and regularly maintained (i.e. repair, replace, add to, improve, implement more effective practice, etc.) to prevent/minimize to the maximum extent practicable discharges of pollutants in order to provide for the protection of water quality.
6. The applicant shall implement a project-specific or a detailed general BMP Plan prepared by an ADEM recognized qualified credentialed professional (QCP) applicable to and commensurate with activities of the type proposed. Effective BMPs shall be implemented and continually maintained for the prevention and control of turbidity, sediment, and other sources of pollutants, including measures to ensure permanent revegetation or cover of all disturbed areas, during and after project implementation.
7. The applicant shall implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan for all temporary and permanent onsite fuel or chemical storage tanks or facilities consistent with the requirements of ADEM Admin. Code R. 335-6-6-.12(r), Section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and 40 CFR Part 112. The applicant shall maintain onsite or have readily available sufficient oil & grease absorbing material and flotation booms to contain and clean-up fuel or chemical spills and leaks. The applicant shall immediately notify ADEM after becoming aware of a significant visible oil sheen in the vicinity of the proposed activity. In the event of a spill with the potential to impact groundwater or other waters of the State, the applicant should immediately call the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency at 1-800-843-0699. The caller should be prepared to report the name, address and telephone number of person reporting spill, the exact location of the spill, the company name and location, the material spilled, the estimated quantity, the source of spill, the cause of the spill, the nearest downstream water with the potential to receive the spill, and the actions taken for containment and cleanup.

8. Additional, effective BMPs shall be fully implemented and maintained on a daily basis as needed to prevent to the maximum extent possible potential discharges of pollutants from activities authorized by this certification, directly to or to a tributary or other stream segment, that have the potential to impact a State water currently considered impaired [waterbody is identified on the Alabama 303(d) list, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) has been finalized for the waterbody, and/or the waterbody is otherwise considered a Tier 1 water pursuant to ADEM Admin. Code Ch. 335-6-10]. The applicant shall inspect all BMPs as often as is necessary (daily if needed) for effectiveness, need for maintenance, and the need to implement additional, effective BMPs. Additional effective BMPs shall immediately be implemented as needed to ensure full compliance with ADEM requirements and the protection of water quality in the impaired waterbody.
9. All construction and worker debris (e.g. trash, garbage, etc.) must be immediately removed and disposed in an approved manner. If acceptable offsite options are unavailable, effective onsite provisions for collection and control of onsite worker toilet wastes or gray waste waters (i.e. port-o-let, shower washdown, etc.) must be implemented and maintained. Soil contaminated by paint or chemical spills, oil spills, etc. must be immediately cleaned up or be removed and disposed in an approved manner. Also, the applicant shall manage and dispose of any trash, debris, and solid waste according to applicable state and federal requirements.
10. All materials used as fill, or materials used for construction of structures in a waterbody, must be non-toxic, non-leaching, non-acid forming, and free of solid waste or other debris. This requirement does not preclude the use of construction materials authorized by the COE that are typically utilized in marine or other aquatic applications.
11. The applicant shall implement appropriate measures to minimize the potential for a decrease of instream dissolved oxygen concentrations as a result of project implementation. In addition, the applicant shall ensure that the activities authorized by this certification do not significantly contribute to or cause a violation of applicable water quality standards for instream dissolved oxygen.
12. The applicant shall implement appropriate, effective BMPs, including installation of floating turbidity screens as necessary, to minimize downstream turbidity to the maximum extent practicable. The applicant shall visually monitor or measure background turbidity. The applicant must suspend operations should turbidity resulting from project implementation exceed background turbidity by more than 50 NTUs. Operations may resume when the turbidity decreases to within acceptable levels.
13. The applicant shall evaluate, characterize, and as necessary, conduct regular analysis of any material proposed to be dredged/removed/disturbed in order to ensure that potential pollutants are not present in concentrations that could cause or contribute to a violation of applicable water quality standards. Information regarding the evaluation, characterization, or detailed results of any analyses shall be made available to ADEM upon request.
14. If upland disposal areas are utilized, the applicant shall be responsible for the condition of the disposal area, including the structural integrity of any embankments, until the disposal area is permanently reclaimed or adequately stabilized, to ensure that sediment and/or turbidity in the return water and/or stormwater runoff will not cause substantial visible contrast with the receiving waters, or result in an increase of 50 NTUs above background turbidity levels in the receiving waters.
15. For proposed activities associated with new or updated docks, marinas, multiple boat slips, floating docks, large or multiple piers, etc. or that increase the number of berthing areas, the applicant shall

ensure that these facilities are equipped with appurtenances (i.e. trash receptacles, receptacles for fish offal and carcasses, SPCC for fueling facilities, and a sewage pump out system where appropriate) as needed to protect water quality.

16. The applicant is encouraged to consider additional pollution prevention practices, low impact development (LID), and other alternatives to assist in complying with applicable regulatory requirements and possible reduction/elimination of pollutant discharges. LID is an approach to land development or re-development that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible. LID employs principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features, minimizing effective imperviousness to create functional and appealing site drainage that treat stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product. There are many practices that have been used to implement these sustainable ideas such as bio-retention facilities, rain gardens, vegetated rooftops, rain barrels, and permeable pavements. By implementing LID principles and practices, water can be managed in a way that reduces the impact of built areas and promotes the natural movement of water within an ecosystem or watershed.
17. The applicant is encouraged to consider and implement a site design plan/strategy for post-construction hydrology to mimic pre-construction hydrology to the extent feasible, and for post-construction stormwater runoff peak flows and total stormwater volume to minimize potential downstream channel and stream bank erosion.
18. In recognition that projects are site specific in nature and conditions can change during project implementation, ADEM reserves the right to require the submission of additional information or require additional management measures to be implemented, as necessary on a case-by-case basis, in order to ensure the protection of water quality. Liability and responsibility for compliance with this certification are not delegable by contract or otherwise. The applicant shall ensure that any agent, contractor, subcontractor, or other person employed by, under contract, or paid a salary by the applicant complies with this certification. Any violations resulting from the actions of such person may be considered violations of this certification.
19. Issuance of a certification by ADEM neither precludes nor negates an operator/owner's responsibility or liability to apply for, obtain, or comply with other ADEM, federal, state, or local government permits, certifications, licenses, or other approvals. This certification does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other private rights, trespass, or any infringement of Federal, State, or local laws or regulations, and in no way purports to vest in the applicant title to lands now owned by the State of Alabama, nor shall it be construed as acquiescence by the State of Alabama of lands owned by the State of Alabama that may be in the applicant's possession.

Please feel free to contact me at 334/394-4304 in the event you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Anthony Scott Hughes, Chief  
Field Operations Division

File: WQ401

c: Nashville District COE & EPA Region IV



August 12, 2025

Mr. Joseph F. Hester, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development  
North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments  
Post Office Box C  
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Re: Funding Application Concurrence Request – Primary Water Transmission Pipeline  
City of Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Hester:

St. John & Associates, Inc. has been retained by the City of Cullman, Alabama to assist in the application for funding from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. Funding is intended for replacement of the primary water transmission pipeline from the water treatment plant to the distribution system. Application for funding requires the preparation of an Environmental Information Document (EID). This document reviews and evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed projects that will be included in the capital improvements program.

Improvements will occur within the existing footprint of the City's distribution system and will include replacement of approximately 9,100 linear feet of 30-inch transmission pipeline from the water treatment plant to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE in downtown Cullman. The existing pipeline has been in service since the plant construction in 1966; it is constructed from rolled and welded steel (RWSP). Utilization of this material for water distribution pipelines preceded the advent of ductile iron pipe and was preferred for its ductility and yield strength. However, thin-walled RWSP pipe is subject to fractures resulting from fabrication and assembly flaws, such as strain aging from cold rolling and weld cracks at joints and seams. As a result, conclusive identification of pipe defects during the repair of leaks is more difficult. Nearly 60-years old, the pipeline has well-exceeded its useful service life.

The proposed pipeline replacement will occur within areas previously disturbed for construction of underground utilities within easements or public right-of-way. A preliminary plan and profile for the pipeline replacement is attached for reference.

In order to maintain critical water infrastructure and ensure effective operation of the system, the proposed improvements in the project are intended to reduce unaccounted water loss and improve service to existing customers. Best management practices will be implemented and monitored throughout the projects' construction in order to prevent adverse and unnecessary impacts to the environment.

As part of this program's EID, we are requesting your review in the area of concern to your agency. We would also ask that you provide a letter of your concurrence if possible. We would appreciate a response no later than September 26, 2025, in order to meet our deadlines in the SRF loan application process. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. I may be contacted by office phone or email ((256) 734-2114; [david@sjaonline.com](mailto:david@sjaonline.com)).

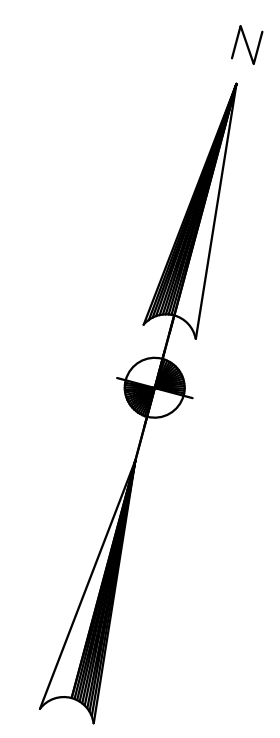
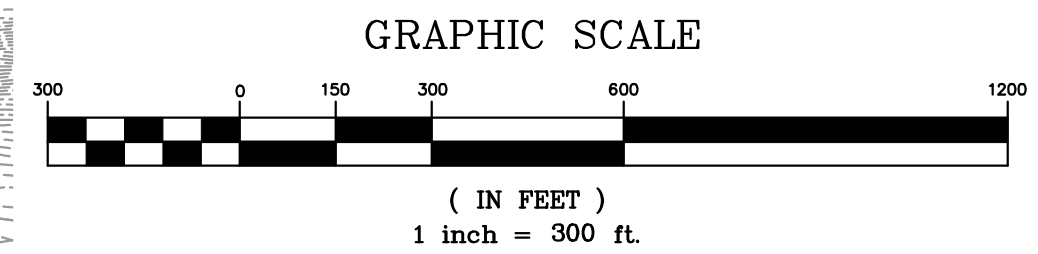
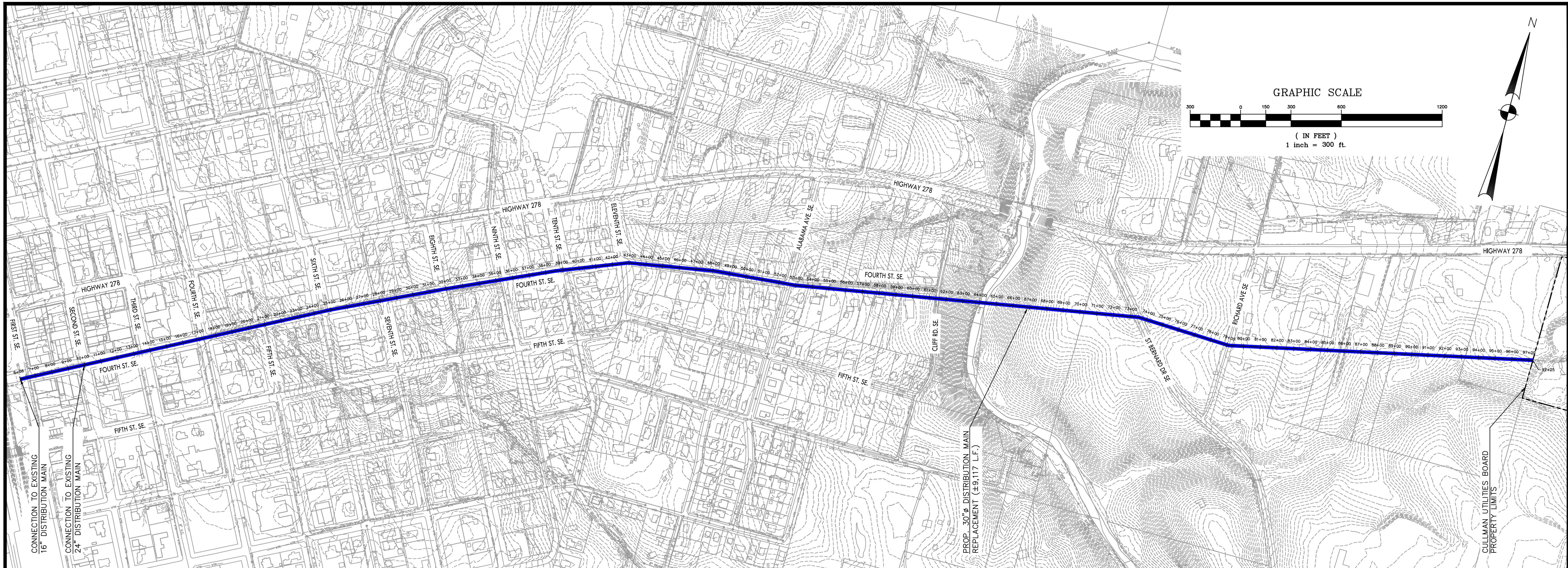
Sincerely,  
St. John & Associates, Inc.



David Q. Haynes, P.E.  
President

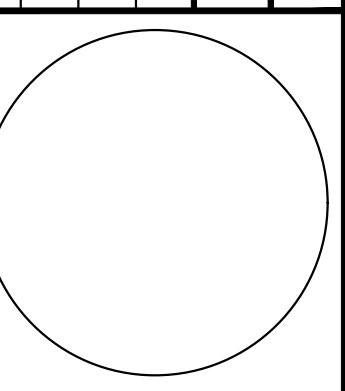
Attachment – City of Cullman; Primary Water Transmission Pipeline Replacement: Project Map  
Plan & Profile (February 20, 2025)

cc. Woody Jacobs, Mayor  
File



**ST. JOHN & ASSOCIATES**  
30 YEARS PLANNING & DESIGN

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APP'D BY

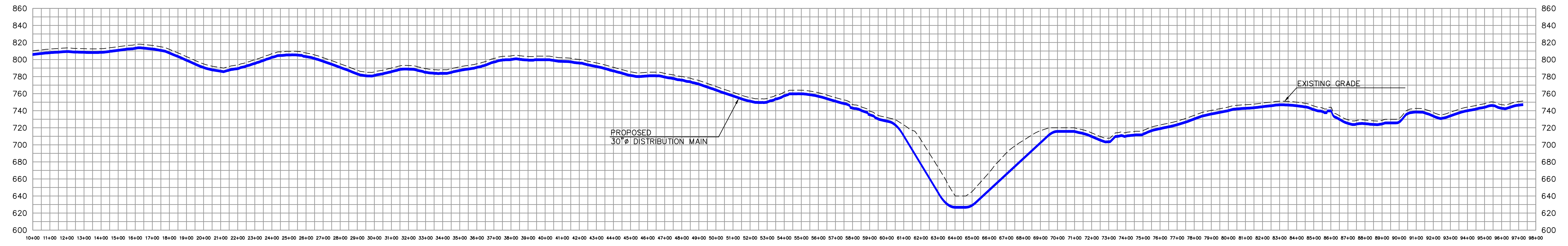


**St. John & Associates, Inc.**  
Consulting Engineers and Planners  
Cullman, Alabama  
508 FIRST AVENUE S.E., CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055 (256) 734-2114

DRAWN BY: HMH  
DATE: 2/20/25  
DESIGNED BY: DAB  
SCALE: HORIZ. 1" = 300'; VERT. 1" = 60'  
APPROVED BY: DQH

**City of Cullman**  
Primary Water Transmission Pipeline Replacement  
CULLMAN, ALABAMA

**PROJECT MAP PLAN & PROFILE**



JOB NO. 1580  
SHEET 1 OF 1  
REV. 0



August 15, 2025

St. John & Associates, Inc.  
ATTN: David Q. Haynes, P.E.  
508 First Avenue, SE  
Cullman, AL 35055

**RE: Letter of Concurrence  
City of Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama  
2025 DWSRF Application**

Dear Mr. Haynes:

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) has reviewed the information provided for the proposed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) project in the City of Cullman, and we offer our concurrence. NARCOG understands that the proposed project is for the replacement of the primary water transmission line from the water treatment plant to the distribution system. Also, NARCOG understands that an Environmental Information Document (EID) is required for this funding. This project will replace an almost 60-year-old pipeline that has exceeded its useful life and will assist with maintaining critical water infrastructure in the city, improving efficiency, and operation. The project will also occur in previously disturbed ROW and will employ Best Management Practices.

Upon review, NARCOG finds the proposed project to be consistent and compatible with local, state, and regional plans. Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (256) 355-4515.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Hester, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development

cc: Robby Cantrell, Executive Director  
File