

**EDWARD F. POOLOS**  
DIRECTOR

**JEFFERY W. KITCHENS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



**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

**KAY IVEY**  
GOVERNOR

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Muscle Shoals Utilities Board  
Colbert County

SRF Project No. FS010395-02

July 28, 2026

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made **\$370,000** in financial assistance available to the **Muscle Shoals Utilities Board** using funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (**DWSRF**) Emerging Contaminants (**EC**) loan programs. In accordance with State and Federal regulations that govern the programs, 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 Muscle Shoals Utilities Board proposes to perform a pilot testing study to evaluate treatment alternatives for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The proposed project would identify the best available technologies for meeting the new MCLs and their estimated costs (capital and O&M) by comparing each alternative process. The proposed project will ensure the correct method is chosen to meet or exceed the new 4.0 ppt PFOS and PFOA MCLs.

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 Mr. Sitthapong (Vince) Limpaphanon, SRF Branch, Permits and Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463, no later than 30 days after the date of public notice. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will not take formal action to proceed with the project without carefully evaluating any public comments opposing the project.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Poolos  
Director

EFP/ADC/VSL/khb

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's 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.



Figure 1 USGS Quadrangle Map

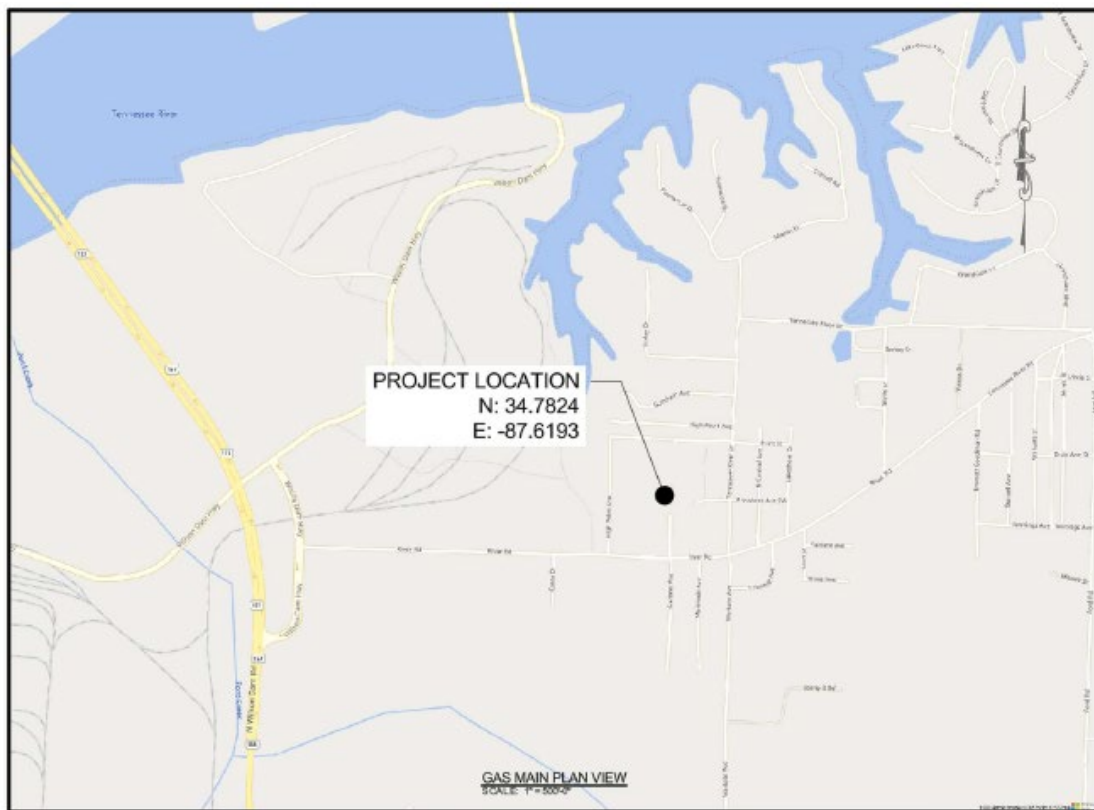


Figure 2 Vicinity Map

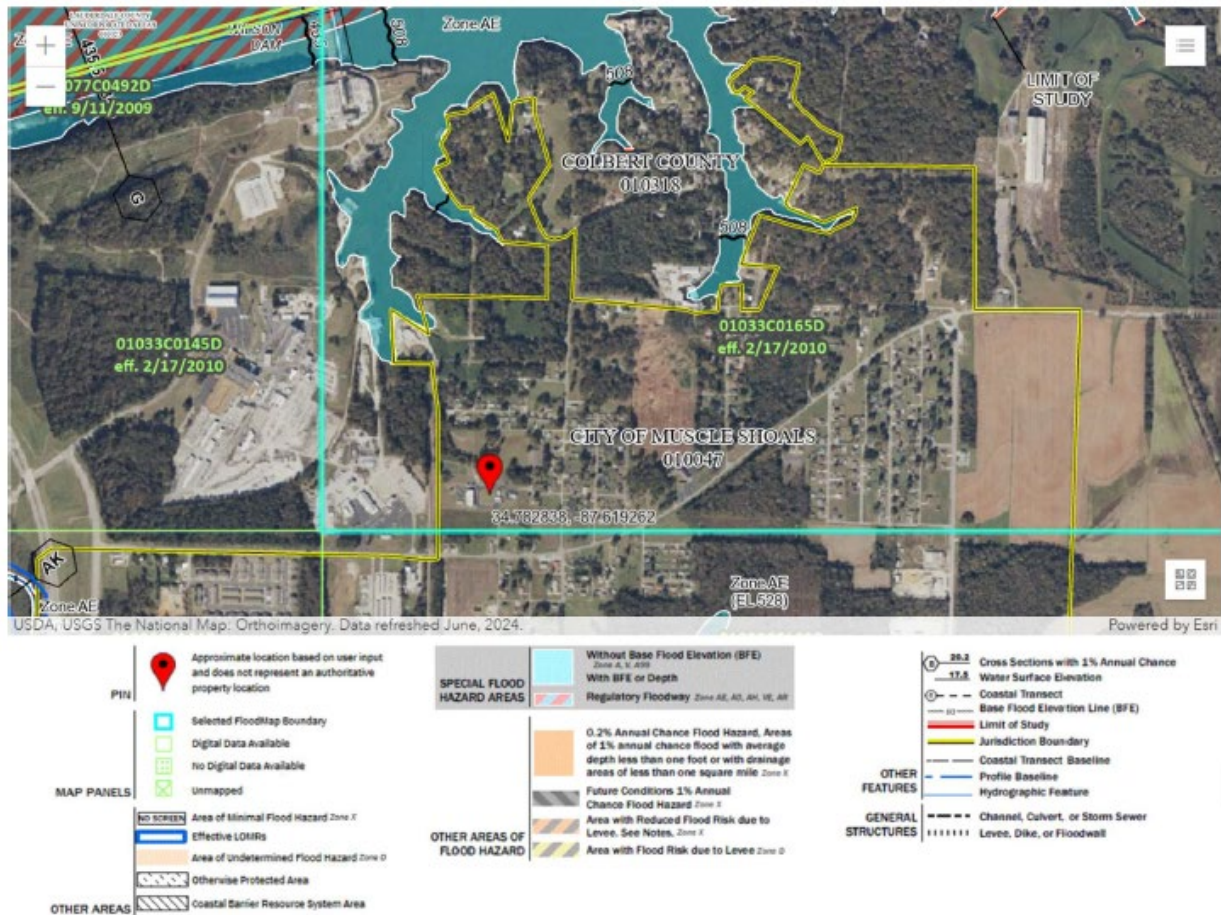


Figure 3 Flood Plane Map