



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

For the Proposed Project of Rocky Top (Anderson County), Tennessee

Loan No. CW21 2026-501

March 11, 2026

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (Department) State Revolving Fund Loan Program has conducted a review of the above-referenced project in accordance with the Operating Agreement between the Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for implementing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program. The Department has determined that this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Accordingly, the Department is exempting the project from further substantive environmental review requirements under the Department's EPA-approved National Environmental Policy Act-like environmental review process.

The project consists of improvements to the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to include the rehabilitation or replacement of the headworks, blower building, and the activated sludge process; installation of a backup generator; and the conversion of the chlorine gas disinfection system to hypochlorite. All work will take place on the existing WWTP site. The total estimated project cost is \$1,610,000. A CWSRF loan in the amount of \$1,610,000 has been requested for this project. This project will be funded with an \$805,000 loan and \$805,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid by the City of Rocky Top.

The project is eligible for a CE because undertaking this action:

1. Will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters
2. Will not substantially increase the volume of discharge or load of pollutants
3. Will not provide capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population
4. Will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment
5. Will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, habitats of endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resources areas
6. Should cause no significant public controversy

The determination shall become effective upon its distribution by the Department and can be revoked at any time that adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision will be on file with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's State Revolving Fund Loan Program and available for public scrutiny upon request.

If you wish to comment or to challenge this CE determination, email your comment(s) to:

Ms. Felicia D. Freeman, Environmental Manager at felicia.d.freeman@tn.gov Division of Water Resources, State Revolving Fund Loan Program Davy Crockett Tower, 9th Floor
500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243
or call (615) 879-0011