



## Categorical Exclusion Determination

For the Proposed Project of Etowah Utilities (McMinn County), Tennessee

Loan No. CW21 2025-496

August 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 upgrading the existing North Industrial Park Pump Station from 350 gpm (gallon per minute) to 1240 gpm; and the installation of approximately 14,800 LF of 12-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride sewer line and ductile iron force main. The total estimated project cost is \$5,861,933. Etowah Utilities received a planning and design loan in the amount of \$279,000 for this project. The Utility plans to request a CWSRF loan in the amount of \$ 2,384,620 for the construction of this project. Construction funding will also include an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant of \$1,977,313 and a U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Power grant of \$1,500,000.

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; and
6. Is cost-effective and 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:

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