



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

EPD Director's Office

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**NOTICE OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT
TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS**

The Fort Valley Utility Commission has made an application to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a grant through the State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF). The grant is intended for the Peach County Regional Water Infrastructure Improvement project. As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Guidelines, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name:	Peach County Regional Water Infrastructure Improvement
Project Location:	Peach County, Georgia
Project Number:	ARPA GA-0014288.
Grant Amount:	\$76,226,000.00

Project Description

Under this project, the Fort Valley Utility Commission will construct two (2) new water treatment plants (WTPs), two (2) new 1,500 gallons per minute (GPM) wells, an elevated water storage tank, and respective interconnection with the existing water distribution system. After completion of the Project, the existing McLean WTP, associated well, and elevated water storage tank will be removed from service due to the WTP's age and the well's proximity to a groundwater contamination plume.

The Woolfolk Chemical Works site in Fort Valley was listed on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990 due to known groundwater and soil contamination resulting from facility operations. The wells near the McLean WTP are at high risk of becoming contaminated as the Woolfolk plume has moved toward the water supply source. Groundwater modeling conducted by the Georgia EPD confirmed that removing wells associated with the existing McLean WTP from service would prevent acute health effects associated with the groundwater plume. The proposed well and WTP locations were strategically selected to prevent groundwater contamination from entering the system and to allow FVUC and DAPC to adapt to potential economic growth in the region over the next 20 years.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project is not anticipated to significantly impact environmental and cultural resources in the surrounding area. It is anticipated to have a minor impact on water supply, water resources, stormwater, wastewater, air quality, solid wastes, wildlife, energy use, water withdrawal, noise, and farmland. The impact of the project will be mitigated and, in most cases, temporary.

FVUC is currently permitted to withdraw up to 2.5 MGD from the Cretaceous Aquifer. If FVUC and DAPC decide to incorporate a third well in the project area to increase water supply to 4.0 MGD in order to satisfy regional economic and industrial development, FVUC will apply for an increase in its groundwater withdrawal limit. The city intends to offset the potential effects on the Cretaceous Aquifer by complying with all groundwater withdrawal regulations and requirements set by the Georgia EPD.

A threatened and Endangered Species Survey within the proposed area was conducted, and the results were reviewed and concurred by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. The survey concluded that the development of the site “may affect but not likely to jeopardize” the Monarch Butterfly or Tricolored Bats, will have “no effect” on Whooping Crane, “may affect, is not likely to adversely affect” the Relict Trillium, and will not affect the remainder of the species. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during the construction activities to prevent any potential secondary impact on suitable habitat.

A review of the Engineering Report and Environmental Information Document for the proposed project has been performed by EPD’s Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering Program. A copy of these documents is available for public examination upon request at EPD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The addresses where a copy is available are listed below.

During the development and design of this project, the Fort Valley Utility Commission has solicited public input. The project has undergone an Executive Order 12372 Review through the State agencies. The project has also been submitted to the Corps of Engineers, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review. No adverse comments have been received. No further environmental review of the project is proposed to be conducted before the release of loan funds.

This NONSI replaces the previous GA-0014288 NONSI published on December 17, 2024, which had been modified as some wells, WTPs, and infrastructure locations have been changed.

All interested agencies, groups, and persons supporting or disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments, within thirty (30) days of the issuance date of this notice, to:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
ATTN: Duplex Tchinda, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1052 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

After evaluating all comments received, EPD will make a final decision regarding the approval of the project planning documents. No administrative action will be taken on the project for thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of this Notice.



Issue Date: 07/21/2025

Manny Patel
Drinking Water Program Manager
Watershed Protection Branch
Georgia Environmental Protection Division

Grant Recipient:

Fort Valley Utility Commission
902 Knoxville Street, Fort Valley, GA 31030