Request for Categorical Exclusion Template and Guidance

**Guidance**

The Drinking Water State Revolving FundRegulations, 216-RICR-50-05-6 (Regulations) require an environmental review for projects funded through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). Certain categories of projects may be exempt from the full environmental review process. Specifically, Section 6.11.C of the Regulations state:

C. Categorical Exclusion

1. Categories of projects which do not individually or cumulatively have significant effects on the quality of the environment may be exempted from the substantive environmental review requirements of this section. Projects that solely involve the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, renovation, or installation of facilities or structures, for replacement or restoration purposes, with minimal change in use, size, capacity, purpose or location from the original facility, may be eligible for a categorical exclusion. Environmental assessments and/or Environmental Impact Statements will not be required for excluded actions. It must be emphasized that even though a project is excluded from further environmental reviews under this section, it is not excluded from other applicable local, state, and federal environmental laws.
2. General Categories of Actions Eligible for Exclusions. Projects consistent with any of the following categories may be eligible for a categorical exclusion:
   1. Repairing or replacing existing water mains.
   2. Replacing an existing water storage tank with a new tank of similar size and stature at the same location.
   3. The installation, replacement, or repair of equipment (i.e., treatment, pumps, controls, etc.) within existing buildings.
   4. Minor rehabilitation of existing facilities.
   5. Other projects which, as determined by the Director, do not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other state, federal, local, or private actions have a significant effect on the quality of the environment.

The Request for Categorical Exclusion Template, provided on page 2, may be used as a guide for requesting a categorical exclusion. Public water systems (PWS) should provide the information in the italicized, bolded font. PWS may expand upon the basics of this letter to make the case for the granting of a categorical exclusion for a project. Please note that each of the items in the template must be addressed.

For the “***DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION,***” include as much information describing the project as is necessary for the reviewer to understand the details of the project. For instance, if 2000’ of 6” diameter pipe is being replaced with 8” diameter pipe, make that clear and provide the reason for the larger diameter pipe.

Where it states “***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON,***” provide the anticipated potential impact and the reasoning for the determination regarding the potential impact. Examples of responses could be: “No impact, project is not in coastal zone” or “No impact, project is not in or adjacent to freshwater wetlands” or “No known historic buildings or tribal artifacts are on the site.” If applicable, state whether there may be a short term, temporary impact and explain the causes and how they will be mitigated.

**Request for Categorical Exclusion Template**

Carlene Newman Environmental Engineer III

Center for Drinking Water Quality Rhode Island Department of Health 3 Capitol Hill, Room 209

Providence, RI 02908

RE: ***SYSTEM/PROJECT NAME*** – Request for Categorical Exclusion/Exemption from Formal Environment Review Process

Dear Ms. Newman:

***SYSTEM NAME*** is applying for a loan under the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) Program, pursuant to the Rhode Island Drinking Water State Revolving FundRegulations, 216-RICR-50- 05-6 (Regulations). This letter serves as our request for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from the formal Environmental Review Process as required in Section 6.11 or the Regulations. A CE is being sought per Section(s) ***LIST SECTIONS*** of the Regulations.

Specifically, this project involves ***DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION***

This project falls into the general category cited above and the potential for direct and indirect impacts will be, at the most, temporary and minimal. Specifically, potential impacts from the project on resources are indicated as follows:

1. *Clean Air Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
2. *Safe Drinking Water Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
3. Sole Source Aquifer Protection Program – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
4. *National Historic Prevention Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
5. *Archeological and Historic Preservation Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
6. *Coastal Zone Management Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
7. *Coastal Barriers Resources Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
8. *Endangered Species Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
9. *Transportation Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
10. *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
11. *Farmland Protection Policy Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
12. Essential Fish Habitat – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
13. *Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
14. Protection of Wetlands – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
15. Floodplain Management – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
16. *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
17. *Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment* – ***INCLUDE POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***
18. *Executive Order 14030, Federal Flood Risk Management Standard* – ***INCLUDE POTENTAIL FOR IMPACT AND REASON***

If you should have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at

***NUMBER AND EMAIL***. ***SIGNATURE***