SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT
Lake Marion Regional Water System
Winding Woods Reach Water Transmission Line Project
Dorchester County, South Carolina
US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (USACE)
May 2021

This Supplemental Information Report (SIR) was prepared in accordance with Section 13(d) of Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, *Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)*, and consistent with 40 CFR 1502.9(d) of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act*, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, as amended. This purpose of this SIR is to address whether there is a need to supplement the Environmental Assessment, Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System – Phase II Project, and FONSI (2004)[1] as a result of minor design and location modifications to the Project.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROJECT

Description of Existing Project: The proposed Winding Woods Water Transmission Line (WWTL) would be part of the overall Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System (LMRWS) Project, which provides potable water from Lake Marion to various cities/towns in Berkeley, Calhoun, Clarendon, Orangeburg, and Dorchester counties. The water system has been constructed in phases, with the first phase involving construction of the potable water plant near Santee which was completed in 2008. The second and third phases involve extending the water transmission lines to municipalities in Dorchester, and Orangeburg counties including Santee, Elloree, Holly Hill, St. George, and Harleyville.

Phase II of the Project previously included a water transmission line expected to serve the Town of St. George (USACE 2004). The previously proposed segment would have consisted of a 16 to 36 inch waterline connecting to the Holly Hill extension beginning east of Interstate 95 at Highway 15 and extending south for approximately 17 miles along an existing powerline easement to Quaker Road in the Town of St. George (Figure 1). Construction of the Phase II waterline to St. George would involve 52 wetland crossings including Four Hole Swamp, Indian Field Swamp, Kettle Branch, Pee Dee Branch, and Providence Swamp. Construction of the waterline through wetlands and surface waters would have utilized directional bore drill and cut and cover methodologies and would not have resulted in the permanent loss of wetlands. The

[1] This SIR is prepared under the Final Rule, Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, issued July 16, 2020 (85 FR 43304-43376. However, the conclusion, below, that supplementation of the existing EA and FONSI is not required would be the same under the 1978 CEQ NEPA regulations.

project was expected to follow the guidelines in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Number 12 and no mitigation was expected to be required. Due to cost and logistics, this 17-mile transmission line has never been constructed.

Description of Modifications: The WWTL is proposed as an alternate route to connect the Town of St. George to the LMRWS. The modifications to the existing project consist of the following: relocating the initially proposed route of the water main that followed a South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) powerline beginning east of the intersection of I-95 and Highway 15 and extending to a location southwest of the intersection of Duke Street and Quaker Road in the Town of St. George; construction of a 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank, three meter stations and a 16" diameter water line extending south and west from the Town of Harleyville to a location approximately 2100 feet north of the intersection of Winding Woods Way and Highway 78 in the Town of St. George (see Figure 2). The proposed alignment for the water line falls within the DOT right of way and includes an area approximately 7.75 miles in length and 25 feet in width.

The WWTL waterline will connect to the existing Harleyville waterline and terminate at the storage tank location north of the intersection of Winding Woods Way and Highway 78 (Figure 3). The storage tank will occupy a site about one acre in size along Winding Woods Way (Figure 4). Each meter station site will be approximately 0.06 acre in size. The Bowman meter station is located on the east side of Bowman Street, approximately 565 feet north of its intersection with W. Main Street in the Town of Harleyville (Figure 5). The Dorchester meter station is located adjacent to an existing water tower, approximately 550 feet south of W. Main Street and 850 feet east of Hill Street in the Town of Harleyville (Figure 6). The Woodland meter station is located adjacent to Woodland High School in Dorchester County, approximately 100 feet southwest of the intersection of Shortcut Road and William Canady Road (Figure 7).

The waterline will be installed by directional bore drill through Field Swamp, Spring Branch, and Tom and Kate Branch, and by cut and cover through nine small drainage areas with wetlands. Construction of the waterline, meter stations, and water tower will not result in permanent impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, but will require vegetation clearing and maintenance of the easement areas. The water tower and meter stations will be constructed entirely in uplands. Construction work through wetlands will follow the guidelines in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Number 12 (or replacement nationwide permit(s)) and no mitigation will be required.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

USACE has previously described the affected environment and evaluated environmental effects of the overall Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System Project, including the St. George transmission line, in the 2004 EA. The EA determined that the impacts from the overall proposed project would not result in impacts significant enough to warrant an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and led to a FONSI finalized February 12. 2004.[2] While the St. George

[2] While the February 12, 2004 FONSI was a joint document involving USACE and the EPA, EPA is no longer involved in the overall Project or the WWTL component by virtue of providing grant money to the non-federal sponsor.

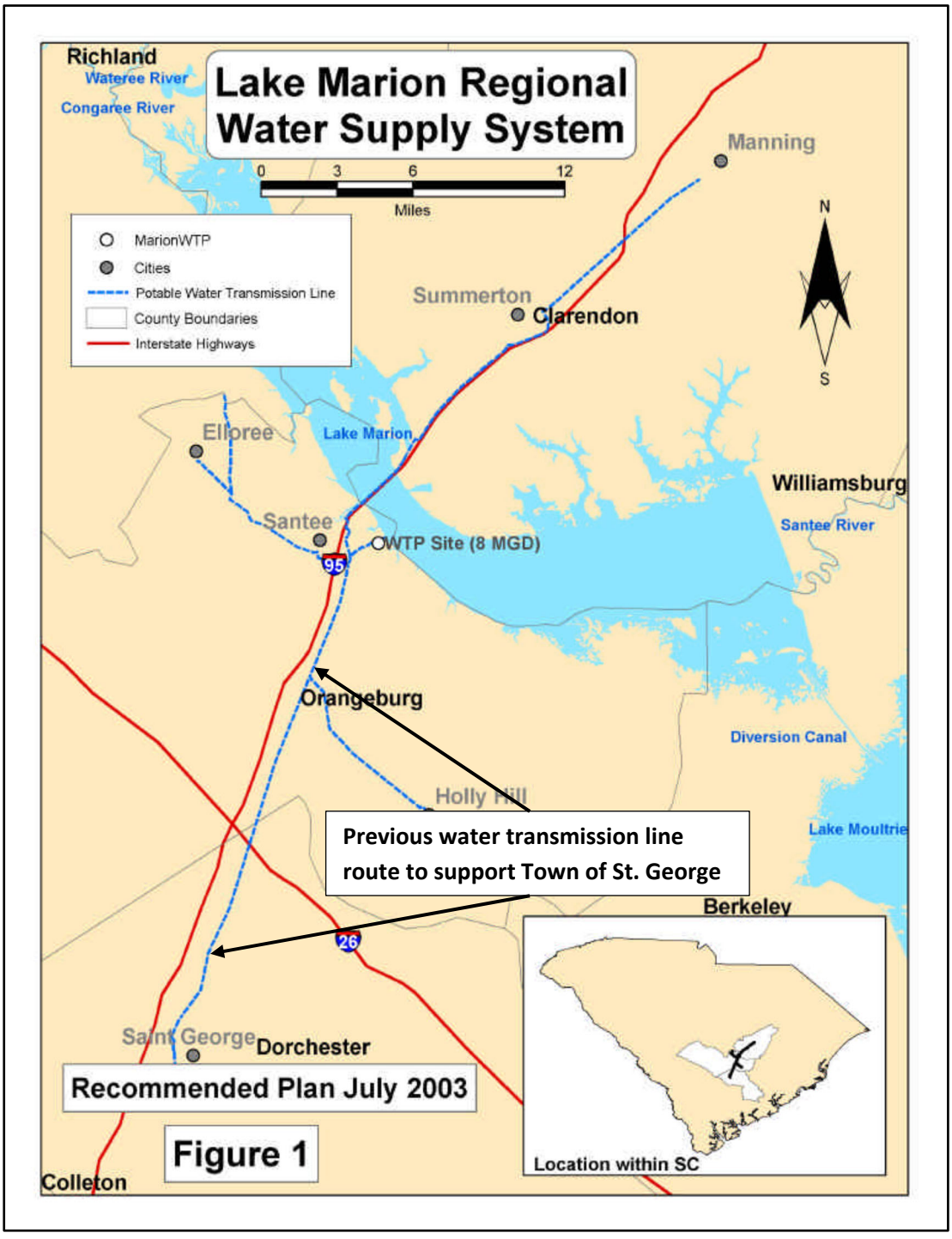

Figure 1 – Previous Route for Town of St. George Water Transmission Line

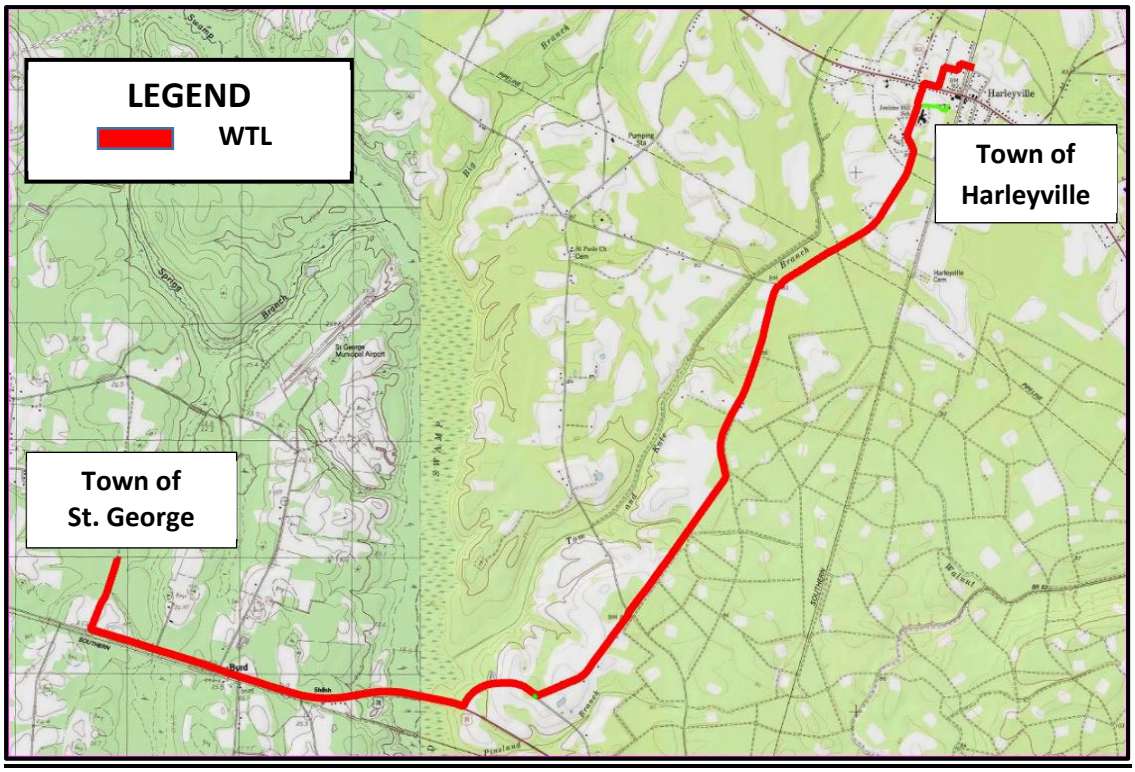

Figure 2. Modified Route for Winding Woods Water Transmission Line

Figure 3. Elevated Storage Tank Location

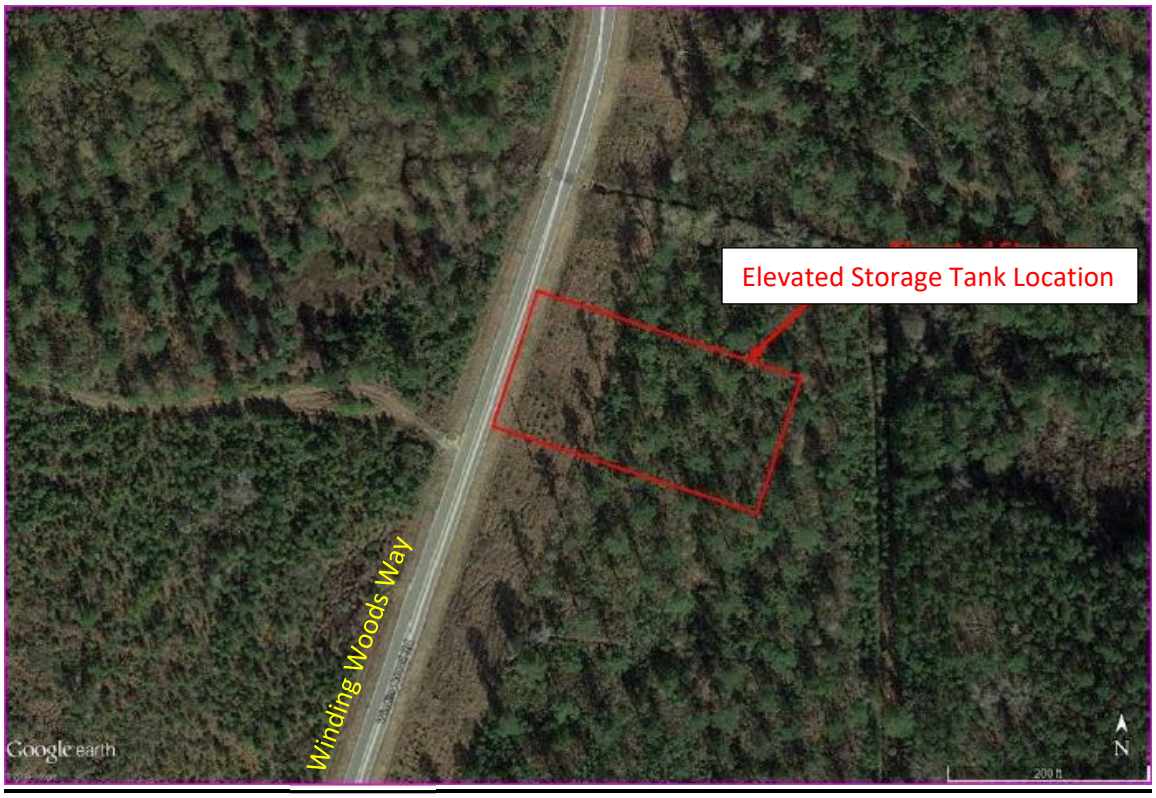

Figure 4. Elevated Storage Tank Detail

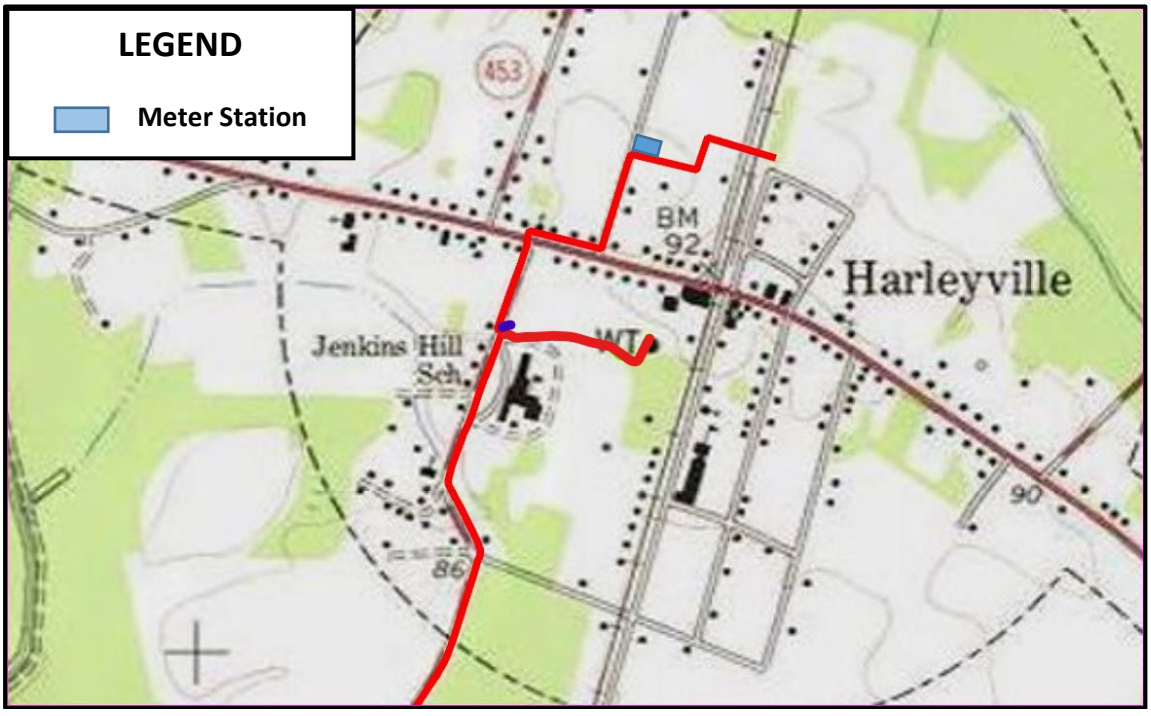

Figure 5. Bowman Meter Site Location

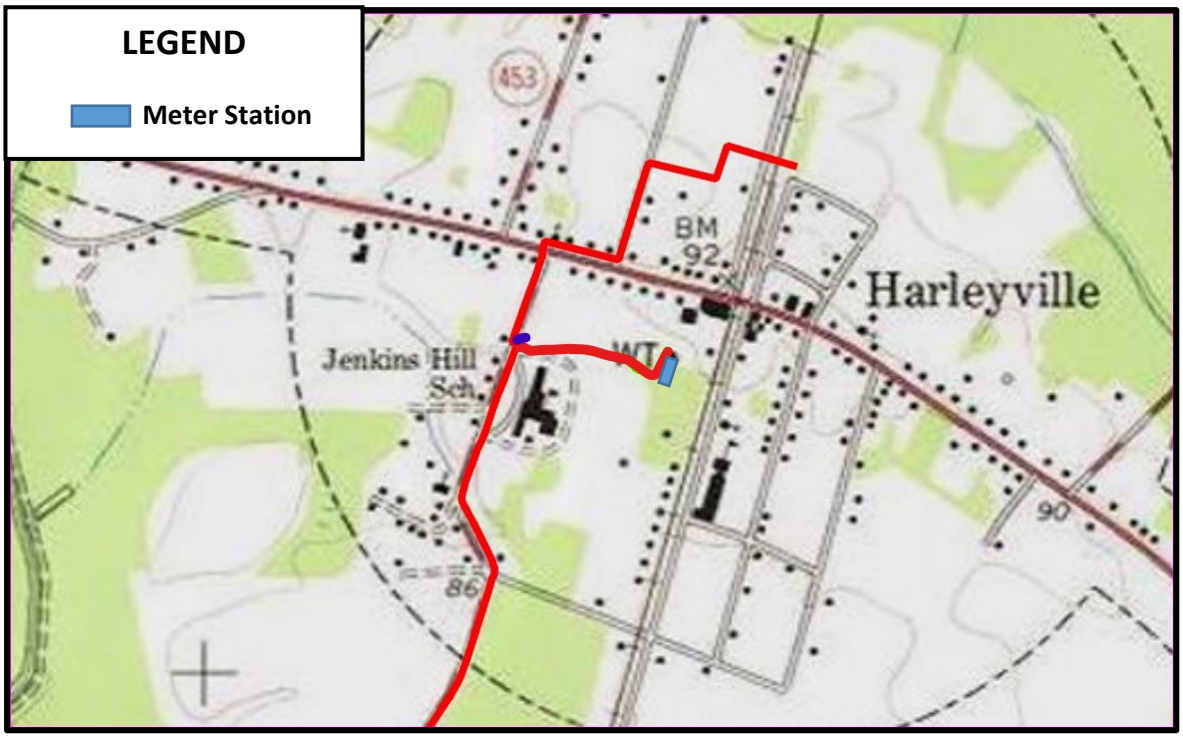

Figure 6. Dorchester Meter Station Location

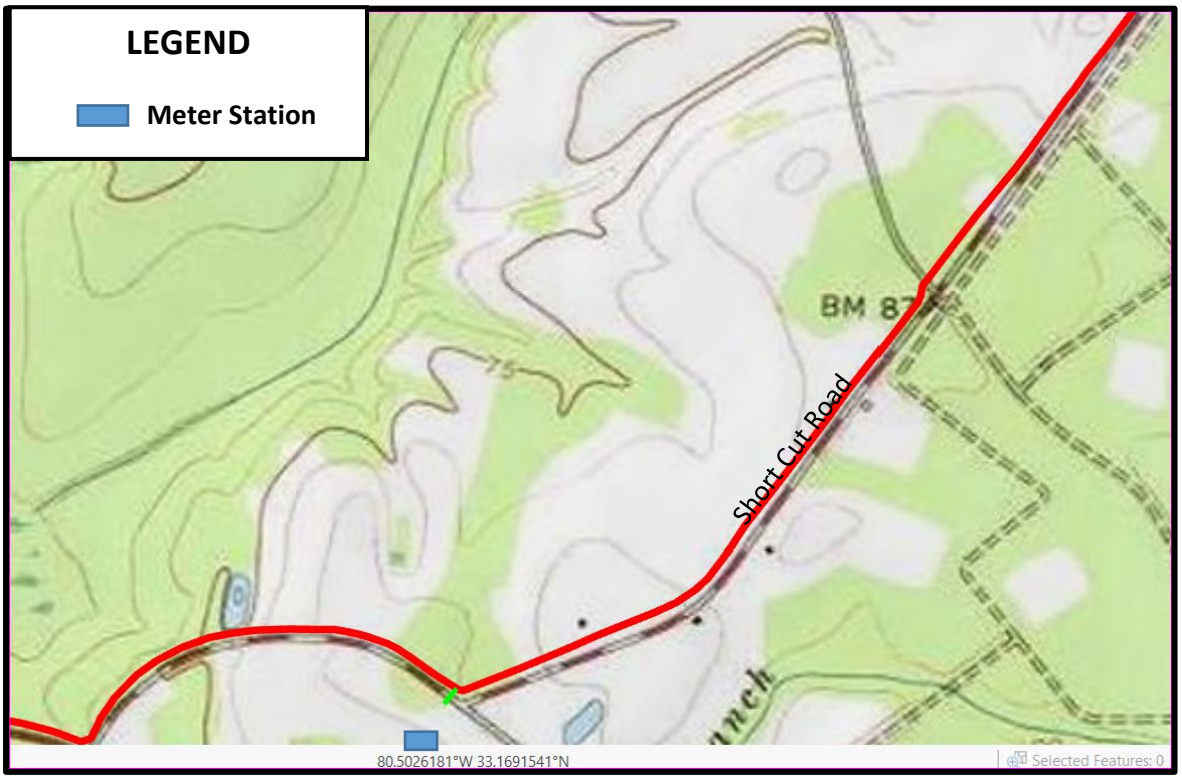

Figure 7. Woodland Meter Station Location

transmission line is being replaced by the WWTL, the alternate route for the Federal project will result in a smaller project footprint, fewer environmental impacts, and no adverse effects to threatened or endangered species, historic sites, or cultural resources.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531 *et seq*.)
Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) consistent with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was completed for the 2004 EA. The 2003 Biological Assessment (BA) considered the effects of the proposed project on threatened and endangered species either known to be present or suspected to be present in the vicinity of the project. Based on conservation measures proposed in the BA, the USFWS concurred with the USACE determination that the proposed project was not likely to adversely affect federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species. USFWS recommended performing a field survey for the Canby's dropwort (*Oxypolis canbyi*), and Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*) prior to construction for each transmission reach. A field survey for the WWTL, including the meter station and water tower locations, was conducted on August 26, 2019. Results of the field survey indicate that no suitable habitat for the Canby's Dropwort, or Pondberry exists within or adjacent to the proposed pipeline route or the meter station/water tower locations. The USACE determined that the WWTL portion of the project would have no effect on Federally listed species.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966 (16 U.S.C. §1531 *et seq*.)
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, requires Federal agencies to evaluate the effects of their activities on historic properties. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was completed for the 2004 EA. SHPO advised that no properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) would be affected by the project; however, they advised SHPO would like the opportunity to review any areas of new right of way. A cultural resources survey of the WWTL project was provided to SHPO for review. By e-mail dated 25 October 2019, SHPO concurred with the USACE assessment that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP would be adversely affected by the WWTL portion of the project.

CLEAN WATER ACT OF 1972 (33 U.S.C. §1341 *et. seq*. and 33 U.S.C. §1344(b) *et seq.*)
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act governs the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. Although the USACE does not process and issue permits for its own activities, the USACE authorizes its own discharges of dredged or fill material by applying all applicable substantive legal requirements, including public notice, opportunity for public hearing, NEPA, and application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines. A Section 404(b)(1) evaluation was completed for the 2004 EA and the findings are still valid as applied to the current Federal project. The project will involve temporary impacts to approximately 0.10 acre of wetlands and will follow the terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit 12. No mitigation will be required.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1972 (16 U.S.C. §1451 et seq.)
USACE determined that the project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program and submitted a CZM coastal consistency negative determination request for the water tower on

October 30, 2019, and a negative determination request for the transmission line and meter stations on August 17, 2020. The Office of Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) provided written confirmation that the WWTL portion of the project, including the meter stations and water tower, is consistent with the enforceable policies contained within the S. C. Coastal Zone Management Program (see Appendix A).

SUMMARY OF DECISION

The proposed modification and replacement of the previously proposed Phase II Town of St. George 17-mile water transmission line with the 7.75-mile WWTL and elevated water storage tank has been reviewed by USACE for environmental compliance, and to determine whether there is a need to supplement the Environmental Assessment, Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System – Phase II Project, and FONSI (2004). The new circumstances relevant to environmental concerns from the proposed WWTL will result in a smaller project footprint, fewer environmental impacts (including no permanent wetland impacts), and no adverse effects to threatened or endangered species, historic sites, or cultural resources. Similarly, the minor design and location changes to the overall Project brought about by the WWTL component are insubstantial and do not alter the basic analysis and conclusions of the 2004 EA. Accordingly, the proposed modification does not alter the conclusion of the 2004 EA and FONSI that the overall project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment described by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the WWTL component does not merit an additional or supplemental EA due to the beneficial project changes and the appreciable reduction in impact. All NEPA documentation incorporated by reference or mentioned in this SIR can be obtained by contacting Alan Shirey at *alan.d.shirey@usace.army.mil* or (843) 329-8166.

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