



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY**  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69A HAGOOD AVENUE  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107

**FEBRUARY 12, 2004**

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System – Phase II Project  
Clarendon, Dorchester, and Orangeburg Counties, South Carolina  
EPA Grant Number: XP-984717-990

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to determine whether a proposed major agency action will significantly affect the environment. The major federal action for this project is the construction of the Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) funds. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 (Public Law 102-580), as amended, specifically authorized USACE to provide assistance to non-Federal interests for carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. Congress has subsequently appropriated funds for USACE to participate in the planning, design, and construction of the proposed Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System project. EPA's funding is provided by grant actions authorized in EPA's Fiscal Year 1999 Appropriation Act (Public Law 105-276) and Fiscal Year 2000 Appropriation Act (Public Law 106-74). This funding was authorized to assist in the construction of the water infrastructure for the Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System project. Based on a review of the Final Environmental Information Document (EID) for the Lake Marion Regional Water System (Volumes 1 & 2) dated October 2003 and subsequent updates, EPA and USACE have determined that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and is issuing this joint Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

The FY 1999 and 2000 Appropriations Acts for the EPA authorized grant funding in the total amount of \$6,801,000 for the purpose of partially funding the Lake Marion Regional Water System project. An EPA grant (Grant No. XP-984717-990) was awarded to the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency (LMRWA) on September 29, 1999, in the amount of \$1,200,000. Additional funds in the amount of \$5,601,000 were added to the grant on April 14, 2003. The grant was conditional to the compliance with the NEPA requirements.

The FY 2001, 2002, and 2004 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act and the FY 2003 Consolidated Appropriations Resolution appropriated a total of \$15,000,000 for USACE to assist the LMRWA.

The new regional drinking water system consists of two phases. The Phase I – US Highway 301 Water Distribution Project is a portion of the Lake Marion Regional Water System that will be constructed without USACE funds and is covered under a separate FNSI issued by the EPA. This FNSI addresses Phase II of the Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System that includes the major water treatment plant and water mains described below.

The major components of the Phase II project consist of the construction of a new 8 mgd (expandable to 12 mgd) state-of-the-art water treatment plant located near the Town of Santee. There will be a raw water intake and pump station with 2000 linear feet of 36 to 42-inch raw water transmission line from the raw water intake site in Lake Marion to the shores of the Town of Santee. The project also includes approximately 340,000 linear feet (65 miles) of 12 to 36-inch interconnecting trunklines from the water treatment plant near Santee to serve the municipalities of Manning, Summerton, Santee, Elloree, Holly Hill, and St. George on separate water main reaches.

The estimated capital cost for the Phase II - Lake Marion Regional Water System is \$62,300,000. The total cost for the Lake Marion Regional System, including the Phase I, is estimated to be \$69,000,000. Ultimately the water treatment facility will be able to service portions of a five county area (Sumter, Clarendon, Calhoun, Orangeburg, and Dorchester Counties) as additional funds are made available to extend service lines.

Other funding sources presently available that will be used to meet the total capital costs of the proposed regional water supply project include: South Carolina Bond Bill - \$8,000,000; Orangeburg County contributions - \$7,875,000; and South Carolina Office of Local Government -\$1,000,000. Additional funds are expected to be received from USACE, Orangeburg County, and other sources that will fully fund the project.

Enclosed is an Environmental Assessment, containing detailed information supporting this action in the following sections: A) Proposed Project and Funding Status; B) Existing Environment; C) Existing Drinking Water Facilities; D) Need for Proposed Project; E) Alternatives Analysis; F) Environmental Consequences and Mitigative Measures; G) Public Participation; and H) Agencies Consulted.

Written comments supporting or disagreeing with this proposed joint EPA/USACE action should be sent to:

Mr. Andrew Borden  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403  
(843) 329-8050

OR

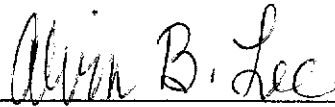
Mr. Ben Chen, Water Management Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4  
61 Forsyth St SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 562-9247

Comments received within thirty (30) days of the date of the FNSI will be evaluated before we make a final decision to proceed.

Sincerely,



J. L. PALMER, JR.  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA Region 4



ALVIN B. LEE  
Lieutenant Colonel, EN  
Commander, U.S. Army Engineer  
District, Charleston

Enclosure