

# NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Statement of Finding

**Date:** May 16, 2012

Lower Rio Grande Public Water Works Authority Water Meter Upgrades  
Vado, Dofia Ana County, New Mexico  
**Project Number:** 2710-DW

The New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) has conducted a review of the proposed Lower Rio Grande Public Water Works Authority (LRGPWWA) water meter upgrade project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the New Mexico State Environmental Review Process (SERP) for the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRF). The procedure is based on the implementing regulations for NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 6, 25, 35, and 1500) as followed by the Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Rural Utility Service Bulletin 1794A-602 and State regulations 20.7.7 NMAC. Parametrix has determined that this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under 40 CFR Part 6.107(d)(1) and 6.505(b)(1).

Following is a description of the proposed action and a statement of how the action meets the criteria for a CE.

**Project Description and Background:** The LRGPWWA has applied for a drinking water loan for the installation and replacement of approximately 3,400 manual-read meters with radio-read meters. LRGPWWA's staff will install the meters in existing service connections to replace the aging mechanical meters currently in use. Metes will be located on the customers' property inside existing LRGPWWA meter boxes. As easements are already in place, no additional right-of-way or easements would be needed to complete the project. Anticipate it would take 18 months to complete the proposed project.

**Project Costs:** The LRGPWWA is requesting funding form the DWRLF for \$600,950 for the purchase and installation of approximately 3,400 radio-read meters.

**Categorical Exclusion Determination:** Categorical Exclusions are identified categories of actions that do not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other federal, state, local, or private actions have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. For a project to be eligible for Categorical Exclusion under the DWRLF, it must meet the criteria described in 40 CFR Part 6.107and 6.505.

NMFA has performed a review of the application materials and has determined that the proposed action fits within the category of actions described by the CE and that no extraordinary circumstances are involved. The proposed action fits within a category of actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.

Specifically, the proposed action includes the replacement of water meters within existing easements and will not affect the degree of treatment of capacity of the existing facility.

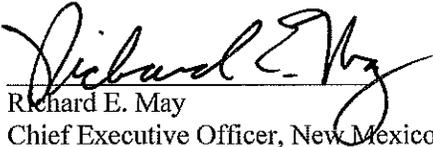
**Approval:** The conclusions presented here are based on the findings of an independent review of the application materials, including a CE checklist and supporting documentation for the proposed action. Based on the independent review, the proposed action qualifies as a CE and no extraordinary circumstances exist that would prevent the issuance of this CE Determination. Therefore, this documentation will serve as a record stating that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from the environmental review process because the action fits within an eligible category.

The responsible official shall revoke a categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of an exclusion, the responsible official determines that: (1) The proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed action; or (2) determines from new evidence that serious local or environmental issues exist; or (3) that Federal, State, local, or tribal laws are being or may be violated.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file at the NMFA, and is available for public review upon request. Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to: New Mexico Finance Authority, Attn: Ryan Helton, Sr. Program Administrator, 207 Shelby Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501.

This documentation does not exempt the applicant from applicable local, state, or federal permitting requirements that may result from the proposed action.

Approved:

  
Richard E. May  
Chief Executive Officer, New Mexico Finance Authority

Date 5/17/2012

**Copies Available:** The Documents that support this Categorical Exclusion are available for public review at the following locations:

1. New Mexico Finance Authority, Attn: Ryan Helton, Sr. Program Administrator, 207 Shelby Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501.
2. Lower Rio Grande Public Water Works Authority, 325 Holguin Road, Box C, Vado, New Mexico, 88072