

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development

CITY OF CHIPLEY: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utility Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utility Service (RUS) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to the City of Chipley for the construction of the Proposed Effluent Disposal Project in Washington County, Florida.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Sheneena Forbes, Area Specialist; 850-633-6474, sheneena.forbes@usda.gov. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review on the City of Chipley Official Website - <http://cityofchipley.com/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project consists of constructing a 12-mile force main for conveyance of treated effluent to a new 167-acre sprayfield site. Alternatives considered by RUS and the City of Chipley include: No action; Construct the Proposed Effluent Disposal Project. These alternatives, along with reuse options that were determined to be infeasible, are discussed in the Proposed Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Improvements EA. The RUS has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper: Washington County News on October 16, 2019 and October 23, 2019. A 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper notices. The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development office and website as well as the City of Chipley's offices. Public comments were received via phone calls and email. Based on these comments the EA was modified to more clearly document the analysis.

Based on its EA, commitments made by the City of Chipley, and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project would have no significant impact to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RUS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National

Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR SS1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

RUS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RUS federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: April 1, 2020