FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED

FEB 12 2014

Stinking Creek Waterline Extension Phase III

Site No. 13602

Campbell County, Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Land Reclamation Section submitted an Authorization to Proceed (ATP) request for Federal AML grant funds to the Office of Surface Mining and Enforcement (OSM), Knoxville Field Office (KFO) for this project. The ATP request consists of a request letter, Environmental Assessment (EA) with consultation correspondence, project description, location map, description forms, and other supporting enclosures. The project area is located in the Stinking Creek Lane Community in Campbell County, Tennessee and falls in the upper reaches of the Clear Fork of the Cumberland watershed. The project site is found on the Ivydell and Pioneer USGS quadrangle map at approximate coordinates 36.43438° North and 84.25575° West. The project falls within the Adams Hollow Problem Area (TN-166) of the Stinking Creek Planning Unit (PU-010). The project involves the extension of the public water system in order to provide safe, potable, and reliable water to 24 households, a church, and one business in the proposed area by adding 16,020 feet of waterline. This project will be funded from the Water Supply Cost Category (47304) of the 2013 AML Grant ($400,000) and Campbell County which will cover costs of engineering, surveying, permitting, procurement, and inspection ($90,000) for a total of $490,000.

OSM has thoroughly reviewed the EA prepared for this project by Robert G. Campbell and Associates, L.P., and determined that it adequately addresses the environmental issues and impacts as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for OSM abandoned mine lands reclamation grant construction activities for authorization purposes. Based on the analysis in the EA, KFO finds that the construction activity performed under this project will have a significantly positive impact on the quality of the human environment. TDEC tested 12 of the wells and determined all have elevated levels of sulfates, iron, and manganese (results included in submittal). The proposal for mitigation does not have the potential for negative impacts on the environment. Therefore, KFO concludes that a detailed Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary. More specific reasons for this determination are as follows:
The alternative to not fund the project would result in no improvement to the project area thus contributing to continued public health and safety issues. Alternative one is excluded due to no action. Alternate two uses 8-inch Class 200 PVC water main pipe and costs 20% more than alternative three. The larger pipe is deemed unnecessary. Alternative three is the most cost effective and has been evaluated to ensure that the components of the project are the most appropriate. No long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from remediation. Short-term environmental impacts are limited to dust, sedimentation, noise, and inconvenience to the local residents while the project is constructed. Dust levels will be controlled by standard site wetting activities and require prompt restoration of disturbed ground. Sedimentation will be controlled by using best management practices. Noise and other inconveniences to local residence are unavoidable impacts related to construction activities.

All appropriate government agencies were consulted or their review criteria applied by agreement. As a result, it was determined that the project area does not contain or significantly affect threatened or endangered species or their habitat, jurisdictional wetlands, cultural or historic values, prime and unique farmland values, or recreational resources. To reduce impacts from the project, the recommendations made by the agencies consulted were considered and, as appropriate, incorporated into the EA as an element of TDECs request for ATP with construction submitted for OSM authorization. The formal responses from agencies consulted for the NEPA review include the following comments and/or recommendations.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicated there are no federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species within the impact area of the project. The project will require boring of two streams; however, this will be accomplished during times of little to no flow. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared by the Engineer that will recommend/require erosion and sediment control. The contractor will be required to stage equipment an adequate distance from the streams to avoid entry of petroleum-based pollutants into the water. Best management practices will be followed. Silt barriers will be put in place when working adjacent to all streams to prevent runoff. There are no wetlands located within project limits.

The Tennessee Historical Commission states that, “No National Register of Historic Places listed or eligible properties will be affected by this project.”

Campbell County will undertake all measures to avoid or minimize any/all impacts to the air, noise pollution, and erosion.

The Land Use section of the EA states that, “projects within existing right-of-ways are exempt from the Farmland Protection Policy Act.” If abandoned oil/gas wells are sited during construction proper action will be taken.

The Army Corps of Engineers has no objection to the project as long as proper permits are obtained by the Campbell County Government. It was determined that the project area is located in a “non-flood prone” location and does not impose on the 100-year floodplain. The contractor will follow all measures in the Tennessee Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook.
According to the Polluted Water Human Consumption Priority Documentation Form, the project meets the qualifications for Priority 2 criteria and contains adequate justification included in the narrative.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 403(b) of SMCRA, you are authorized to proceed with this project and expend Federal funds in accordance with AML grant terms and conditions.

In accordance with Inventory guidelines found in OSM Directive AML-1, please update the Stinking Creek Land Waterline Extension Phase III in the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System from "unfunded" to "funded" based on your budget estimate for the site.

Elizabeth R. Smith
OSM Environmental Reviewer
AML Program Specialist

Earl D. Bandy, Jr.
Field Office Director

2/12/14
Date