



# United States Department of the Interior



## OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Knoxville Field Office  
701 Locust Street, Second Floor  
Knoxville, TN 37902

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

#### AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED

Pitts Gap Waterline Extension Project

Abandoned Mine Lands Project

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 (OSMRE), 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 Bledsoe County, Tennessee on the Brayton and Pikeville USGS quadrangle maps at approximate coordinates 35.4930°North and 85.2055°West. The Pitts Gap extension will serve 41 households and one church. TDEC proposes to contribute \$362,621 of AML funding from the 2013 AML grant toward the total project cost of \$588,000. The City of Dayton will cover the costs of a booster station, additional water line, meter assemblies, engineering, surveying, permitting, procurement, and inspection. These expenses are estimated to be \$225,379.

OSMRE has thoroughly reviewed the EA prepared for this project by J.R. Wauford & Company for the City of Dayton, TN and adopted by TDEC. OSMRE has determined that it adequately addresses the environmental issues and impacts as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for OSMRE 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 as the families who depend on the wells, cisterns, and springs for their water have been impacted by surface and underground pre-law mining. Eleven of the wells were sampled and all found to have elevated levels of

iron and sulfates. 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 (Alt. 3) 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 requires drilling water supply wells, a new water treatment plant, and water distribution center thus adding \$1.3 million to the project. This alternative utilizes well water in lieu of connecting to the city waterline. This alternative is excluded due to unnecessary spending and construction. 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 prepared by J.R. Wauford & Company as an element of TDEC's request to ATP with construction submitted for OSMRE authorization. The formal responses from agencies consulted for the NEPA review include the following comments and/or recommendations:

Tennessee Historical commission found no listed or eligible properties on the National Register of Historic Places; therefore, there are no objections to proceeding with the proposed project. If any prehistoric or historic archaeological sites are discovered during construction, all activity must cease immediately and proper agencies be notified.

TDEC's Division of Water Resources requires an Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit (ARAP) due potential small stream crossings; however, construction will be accomplished during dry times of year.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service responded that suitable roosting habitat for the Indian bat and northern long-eared bat may occur within the project area, but that the project is "not likely to adversely affect" the bats.

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be prepared by the engineer the City of Dayton and submitted to TDEC.

TDEC's Geological Survey found no known abandoned or active oil and gas exploration wells in the project vicinity; however, the contractor should keep in mind the possibility of wildcat wells during

construction. Should an undocumented well be found, the Geological Survey should be contacted immediately.

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. 11 of the household wells included in the project exceed the TDEC's Secondary Drinking Water Regulation for iron and sulfates.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 5-170-20 of the Federal Assistance Manual, you are authorized to proceed with this project and expend Federal funds in accordance with AML grant terms and conditions.

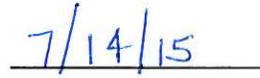
In accordance with Inventory guidelines found in OSMRE Directive AML-1, please update the Pitts Gap Waterline Extension Project in the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System from "unfunded" to "funded" based on your budget estimate for the site.



Elizabeth R. Smith

OSMRE Environmental Reviewer

AML Program Specialist

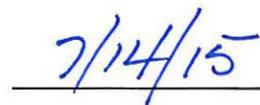


Date



Earl D. Bandy, Jr.

Field Office Director



Date