



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

MAR 03 2015

Wooldridge-Pioneer 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 Campbell County, Tennessee on the Jellico West and Pioneer USGS quadrangle maps at approximate coordinates 36.42356°North and 84.31699° West (Pioneer) and 36.57114°North and 84.17765°West (Wooldridge). The Pioneer portion of the project falls within the Potato Knob Project Area (TN-221) and the Wheeler Gap PA (TN-095) of the Lick Fork (PU-008) and Cove Creel Planning Unit (PU-019). The Pioneer extension will serve eight households and two churches. The Wooldridge extension falls within the Wooldridge PA (TN-097) within the Newcomb Planning Unit (PU-019) and will serve 17 residences.

OSMRE has thoroughly reviewed the EA prepared for this project by Robert G. Campbell & Associates L.P. for the City of Jellico, 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 the 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 an

underground pre-law mining. Fourteen 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. 1) would result in no improvement to the project area contributing to continued public health and safety issues. Alternative one is excluded due to no alternative. Alternate two uses larger piping and costs 10% more than three. The larger pipe is deemed unnecessary. The waterline sizing in Alternate three is in accordance with State regulations and best management practices. 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 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 Robert G. Campbell 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:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) responded that a portion of the project falls within Flood Zone A. The contractor will follow all measures as presented in the Tennessee Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook and DA permits will be obtained prior to construction.

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 Air Pollution Control did not respond to the letter dated December 15, 2014. It is standard practice, however, of the City of Jellico/Jellico Utilities to undertake measures to minimize and avoid impacts to air quality.

The East Tennessee Development District review found no conflicts with potential construction plans with the District or other agencies in the region.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service responded on November 24, 2014, that suitable roosting habitat for Indian Bat and the occurrence of Blackside Dace in Crooked Creek both fall within the project area.

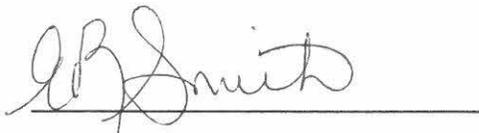
TDEC responded with a project construction explanation letter on November 26, 2014, detailing a to avoid disturbance of the species. A follow-up reply from FWS on December 15, 2014, was received that stated the project could proceed.

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

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. Four of the five household wells included in the project exceed the TDECs Secondary Drinking Water Regulation for iron, sulfate, and manganese.

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 Wooldridge-Pioneer Waterline Extension Project in the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System from "unfunded" to "funded" based on your budget estimate for the site.



OSMRE Environmental Reviewer

AML Program Specialist

3/3/2015

Date



Earl D. Bandy, Jr.

Field Office Director

3-3-2015

Date

