

JUL 25 2016



## 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

Tennessee Hollow Waterline Extension Project

Abandoned Mine Lands Project

Anderson 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 Anderson County, Tennessee on the Lake City USGS quadrangle map at approximate coordinates 36.17316°North and 84.19802°West. The Tennessee Hollow extension will serve four households and one church. Total project cost is \$185,000.00 of AML funding from the 2016 AML grant.

OSMRE has thoroughly reviewed the EA prepared for this project by Robert G. Campbell & Associates, L.P. for Anderson County, 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 and springs for their water have been impacted by surface and underground pre-law mining. The wells were sampled and found to have elevated levels of iron, manganese, 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 thus contributing to continued public health and safety issues. Alternative one is excluded due to no action. 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 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 Robert G. Campbell & Associates, L.P. 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.

East Tennessee Development District found no conflicts with the plans associated with this project.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has no objection to proposed project; no Department of Army permit is needed. If the directional bore crossing at Coal Creek requires the use of sand bags to dewater the creek, then a DA permit would be required and will be applied for when applicable.

Division of Water Resources' review does not indicate there are any issues with navigable waters or that the project would impact a river that is part of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, any wild or scenic river, or endangered species.

Natural Resources Conservation Service stated the project is exempt from further FPPA review due to its location within land already in existing right-of ways established before August 5, 1984.

Division of Archaeology determined the project should have no effect on significant archaeological resources.

Tennessee Geological Survey suggests erosion kept at a minimum, because acidic material could travel directly into nearby streams. There are no known underground mines under Areas 1 or 2. A geologic consultant may need to be contacted if a supplementary investigation is required.

Natural Resources Conservation Service stated the project is exempt from further FPPA review due to its location within land already in existing right-of ways established before August 5, 1984.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service responded there are no wetlands in the project area; however, FWS recommends silt barriers to prevent surface runoff.

The following permits will be obtained before construction begins:

JUL 25 2016

- Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
- Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit

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. The households 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 Tennessee Hollow 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

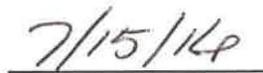


Date



Earl D. Bandy, Jr.

Field Office Director



Date