



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Knoxville Field Office
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Knoxville, TN 37902

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED

Jellico-Indian Mountain Road Waterline Replacement 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 USGS quadrangle map at approximate coordinates 36.58305°North and 84.13926°West. The Jellico-Indian Mountain Road replacement will benefit over 200 residences and Indian Mountain State Park as one of the main distribution lines. Total project cost is \$175,000.00 of AML funding from the 2017 AML grant.

OSMRE has thoroughly reviewed the EA prepared for this project by McGill Associates for Campbell 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 for families in the Indian Mountain Road area of Jellico.

The Jellico Water Treatment Plant uses an abandoned coal mine pit as a reservoir for its raw water source. The water chemistry of the abandoned pit is very corrosive in nature due to the effects of past mining in the area. The proposed project will replace the existing deteriorated water distribution lines between the treatment plant and Indian Mountain Road. By replacing the old water lines, Jellico will reduce the amount of treated water lost in the system, which will reduce the amount of raw water required from the reservoir.

The EA evaluated two alternatives:

- Alternative One is no action. This alternative would choose not to fund the project and would result in no water supply improvement in the project area; therefore, this alternative was excluded because it contributes to, rather than alleviates, public health and safety issues.
- Alternative 2 would upgrade the main water line along Indian Mountain Road and connecting waterline intersections with a new 8-inch PVC C900 water line. These proposed improvements would increase the reliability of continuous flow while also providing increased water pressure to the high points within the hydraulic zone/supply area. The work would eliminate the frequent mainline repairs and service interruption thus reducing the amount of potable water lost on an annual basis.

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 under construction. Dust levels will be controlled by standard site wetting activities and require prompt restoration of disturbed ground. Sedimentation will be controlled using best management practices. Noise and other inconveniences to local residence are unavoidable impacts related to construction activities.

TDEC calculated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions based on actual fuel consumption measured on previous waterline projects. They estimated that 400 gallons of fuel would be burned during the life of the project. Using a common conversion factor of 10,000 grams of CO₂ emitted per gallon of fuel for off road construction equipment: $10,000\text{g/gal} \times 400 \text{ gal} = 4,000 \text{ kg}$ or 4 metric tons of CO₂ produced during the life of the project, which is equivalent to the energy used to power 0.422 homes for one year. The carbon footprint of the Jellico-Indian Mountain Road Waterline Replacement Project relative to the total number of U.S. households is 0.000000004% of total U.S. GHG emissions.

All appropriate government agencies were consulted or their review criteria applied as per agreed upon procedures. As a result, it was determined that the project area does not contain or significantly affect threatened or endangered species or their designated critical 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 McGill Associates as an element of TDEC's ATP request and submitted for OSMRE review and

authorization. The formal responses from agencies consulted for the NEPA review include the following comments and/or recommendations:

Agency	Date of Letter/ Correspondence	Comment
Tennessee Historical Commission	07/12/2017	Found no listed or eligible properties on the National Register of Historic Places; therefore, there are no objections to proceeding with the proposed project.
US Department of Interior – Fish and Wildlife	07/12/2017	There are no known T&E species in the project area. The requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, are fulfilled.
Corps of Engineers – Environmental Resource Branch	07/17/2017	No objection to proposed project; no Department of Army permit(s) needed.
East Tennessee Development District – Regional Planning Agency	07/06/2017	Found no conflicts with the plans associated with this project.
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	07/24/2017	No concerns or objection to the project; do not anticipate adverse impacts to state listed species due to the project.
Natural Resources Conservation Service	07/03//2017	The project is exempt from further Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) review due to its location within land already in existing right-of ways established before August 5, 1984.
TDEC – Division of Archaeology	07/06/2017	Determined no prehistoric or historic archaeological sites have been recorded within the project area; therefore, no issues to proceed are foreseen.
State of TN – Department of Transportation, Environmental Division	07/21/2017	No comment/concern
TDEC – Division of Geology	07/31/2017	Suggests erosion be kept at a minimum, because acidic material could travel directly into nearby streams. There are no known oil and gas wells on the Indian Mountain Road site.
TDEC – Division of Natural Areas	07/21/2017	No anticipated impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered plant species are likely to occur during this project.

Authorization to proceed assumes all applicable permits, rights of entry, and other legal requirements will be obtained before construction begins. In addition and in accordance with the 403(b) Priority Documentation Form, the project meets the qualifications set forth in the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act for Priority 2 sites and criteria and contains adequate justification included in the narrative to consider approval.

OSMRE reviewed the EA for the Jellico-Indian Mountain Road Waterline Replacement Project and determined it adequately discusses the environmental issues and impacts associated with the project. Based on analysis of this document, I have determined that reclamation of this abandoned mine site would not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment and therefore conclude that no environmental impact statement is necessary. KFO concludes that a detailed Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary.

In addition, the AML inventory information submitted for this project has been accepted for inclusion in the inventory.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 4-160-50D.3 of the Federal Assistance Manual, you are authorized to proceed with this project and expend available Federal funds in accordance with AML grant terms and conditions.

Elizabeth R. Smith

OSMRE Environmental Reviewer

AML Program Specialist

Date

Robert S. Evans

Acting Field Office Director

Knoxville Field Office

Date