

JOSH STEIN
Governor
D. REID WILSON
Secretary
SHADI ESKAF
Director



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

July 2, 2025

Mr. Rick J. Hester, County Manager
Johnston County
P.O. Box 1049
Smithfield, North Carolina 27577

Subject: Engineering Report Funding Approval
Johnston County
Neuse River WWPS & Force Main Replacement
DWI Project No. SRF-W-0015

Dear Mr. Hester:

The Division of Water Infrastructure (Division) has completed its review of the engineering report and environmental document for the subject project. Based upon the review, the Division has determined that the above-referenced project is eligible for funding as follows:

Eligible:

Contract 1

Relocation/demolition of existing Neuse River Wastewater Pump Station (NRWWPS) to include installation of 1,500 GPM triplex submersible pump station [three (3) 750 GPM pumps], back up diesel generator, and SCADA; and approximately 130 LF of 16-inch gravity sewer and 655 LF of 12-inch FM (to the existing Neuse River Bridge).

Contract 2

Installation of approximately 10,560 LF of 12-inch force main from the existing Neuse River Bridge to the Johnston County Central Regional WWTF.

Non-Eligible:

Paving of roadways in excess of the excavated area; spare parts, service contracts, and maintenance contracts; and extended warranties.

Based upon a detailed review of the future bid documents, the Division may determine that portions of the project are not eligible for funding and the total funding amount may be reduced.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Water Infrastructure
512 N. Salisbury Street | 1633 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1633
919.707.9160

Mr. Rick J. Hester, County Manager
Johnston County
July 2, 2025
Page 2 of 3

Please note that funding is contingent on meeting the schedule provided in your *Letter of Intent to Fund*, or your approved Funding Deadline Extension approval letter (if applicable), as tabulated below:

<u>Milestone</u>	<u>Date</u>
Design-and-Bid Package Approval	October 1, 2025
Advertise Project, Receive Bids, Submit Bid Information, <u>and</u> Receive Authority to Award	February 2, 2026
Execute Construction Contract(s)	March 2, 2026

To facilitate the North Carolina Local Government Commission's (LGC) required review of the repayable-loan portion of the subject project, please complete (based on your organization's most recently completed, annual audit) the LGC's forms *LGC-108A* and *LGC-108C* and forward them to the LGC, and specifically, directly to the attention of Donna Davis, who can be reached via e-mail at donna.davis@nctreasurer.com. Copies of the necessary LGC forms are available at the following URL: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-have-funding/construction-disbursement-funds#lgc-forms>.

In addition, local government units intending to incur debt (i.e., service a repayable loan) as a means of financing capital-improvement projects (including, for example, drinking water, wastewater, and/or stormwater infrastructure-improvement projects), and which will require debt to be issued for an amount of **greater than \$1,000,000** (in accordance with North Carolina General Statute (N.C.G.S.) 120-157.2), must prepare and submit a letter of notification to the North Carolina General Assembly's Joint Legislative Committee on Local Government (**JLC**). You are wholly responsible for preparing and submitting this letter to the necessary parties (see next paragraph), and for providing a copy of it to the Division.

The **JLC Notification Letter**, if required, shall be addressed to the attention of the Committee Chairs and Committee Assistant of the JLC, and to the Fiscal Research Division of the North Carolina General Assembly, and it shall be transmitted to them a minimum of **forty-five (45) days** prior to the anticipated date of your loan's presentation before the LGC (on one of their official monthly agenda). Please note that you must also submit a copy of the JLC Notification Letter to the LGC as well, as it is part of their staff's review of the requested loan.

Please submit Plans and Specifications via the new Online Supporting Documentation Submittal Form located at <https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/Forms/DW-Document-Upload-Form>. The link to the online submittal form and a list of frequently asked questions can also be accessed from the Division's "I Have Funding" page, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-have-funding>.

Mr. Rick J. Hester, County Manager
Johnston County
July 2, 2025
Page 3 of 3

If you have any questions, please contact Monti Hassan either by telephone at 919.707.9247 or by e-mail at monti.hassan@deq.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Antonio V. Evans

Antonio V. Evans, P.E., Supervisor
Wastewater and Stormwater Projects Unit

Attachment: Categorical Exclusion

cc: Steve Hilderhoff, P.E., CDM Smith (hilderhoffsr@cdmsmith.com)
Kim Rineer, P.E., Johnston County Public Utilities (kim.rineer@johnstonnc.com)
Antonio V. Evans, P.E. (DWI, via e-mail)
Monti Hassan (DWI, via e-mail)
Mark Hubbard, P.E. (DWI, via e-mail)
Renee Parkman, P.E. (DWI, via e-mail)
Susan Kubacki (DWI, via e-mail)
DWI Agreement ID 2000075152 (**ER/EID – ERAL**)

Categorical Exclusion

North Carolina Division of Water Infrastructure

Project Applicant: Johnston County
Date: July 2, 2025
Project Name: Neuse River WWPS & Force Main Replacement
Project Number: SRF-W-0015
Estimated Project Cost: \$9,139,200.00
Estimated Funding Amount: \$8,960,000.00

Project Description:

Contract 1

Relocation/demolition of existing Neuse River Wastewater Pump Station (NRWWPS) to include installation of 1,500 GPM triplex submersible pump station [three (3) 750 GPM pumps], back up diesel generator, and SCADA; and approximately 130 LF of 16-inch gravity sewer and 655 LF of 12-inch FM (to the existing Neuse River Bridge).

Contract 2

Installation of approximately 10,560 LF of 12-inch force main from the existing Neuse River Bridge to the Johnston County Central Regional WWTF.

The above-named applicant will receive funding assistance from the State Revolving Fund. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure (**Division**) has conducted a review of the project in accordance with the NCGS §159G-38. The Division has determined that this project is below the minor construction activities threshold outlined in the 15A NCAC 01C .0408; therefore, the project is exempt from inter-agency review, and the preparation of additional environmental documents is not required.

This determination shall become effective upon its distribution by the Division and will be available on the Division's website (<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/division-water-infrastructure/environmental-documents>). This determination can be revoked at any time adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision will be on file with the Division and is available for public scrutiny upon request.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed in writing to Ms. Stephanie Suter, Deputy Director, Division of Water Infrastructure, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, 1633 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699. Alternatively, she can be reached via telephone at 919.707.9044 or via e-mail at stephanie.suter@deq.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Antonio V. Evans

Antonio V. Evans, P.E., Supervisor
Wastewater and Stormwater Projects Unit
Division of Water Infrastructure