

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- I. PROJECT NAME CITY OF FRANKLIN
WATER WORKS**
- ADDRESS MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPT.
43 W. BOW STREET
FRANKLIN, NH 03235**
- PROJECT WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
MERRIMACK COUNTY**

DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER/ 0851010

EPA ID NUMBER

II. INTRODUCTION

The City of Franklin Water Works, Franklin, New Hampshire, has applied to borrow funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in accordance with provisions of Chapter Env-Dw 1100. These rules prescribe procedures for the application process concerning the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) administered by the Department of Environmental Services. This document will discuss the requirements of Part Env-Dw 1107 of these rules, the environmental review.

III. BACKGROUND

The City of Franklin obtains a majority of its current municipal water supply from (4) groundwater supply sources; the Sanbornton Well field, Acme Wells #1 and #2, and the Franklin Falls Well. These existing sources contain levels of iron and manganese above the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (“SMCL”) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”). High levels of iron and manganese in drinking water, although not considered a health concern, cause water to have a bad taste and smell, and result in staining of fixtures and laundry.

Approximately two-thirds of the City is served by municipal water along with an estimated 300 hydrants for fire protection. The current average day demand in Franklin is 480,000 gallons per day (“gpd”) with a maximum day of 700,000 gpd. It is estimated that by 2030 the average demand will be 550,000 gpd with a maximum day of 1,000,000 gpd.

IV. PURPOSE and NEED

As previously mentioned, high levels of iron and manganese make drinking water undesirable, and often results in consumer dissatisfaction. The accumulation of iron and manganese sediment in the water distribution pipes can cause a biofilm to develop in the distribution system, leading to an increased chlorine demand. Maintaining a consistent

water quality and chlorine residual within the distribution system can become a problem. The City of Franklin water system has historically incurred total coliform violations.

V. DETAILS of PROJECT

This project includes the construction of a groundwater treatment facility to treat elevated levels of iron and manganese in water from both the Acme and Franklin Falls well fields. This facility will be located at the Acme Well site. Also proposed are (2) water mains, one raw water, and one finish water, between the Franklin Falls and Acme site. Directional drilling will be used to install the water mains under the Pemigewasset River, a distance of approximately 2000 feet. In addition, approximately 2,500 feet of 12-inch main will be installed to connect the proposed treatment facility to the existing main in North Main Street. This connection is currently 8-inch and needs to be expanded to handle the combined flow. The proposed water mains will improve the water systems hydraulics and reliability.

The City of Franklin has applied to borrow up to \$6,755,000 from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program (DWSRF) for the purpose of financing this project.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The environmental concerns involved in this project are minimal and no adverse impacts are anticipated. The following areas of environmental concern summarize the possible impacts, and illustrate the major areas of potential impact. The primary impacts are short-term impacts which will affect the area only during the period of construction.

Air: Air impacts will be limited to dust, and diesel exhaust odors created during the construction portion of the project. There should be no long-term air impacts from this project.

Noise: Impacts from noise during construction should be the only noise impacts from this project. Construction will be scheduled to avoid working nights or weekends when the noise might disturb local residents.

Surface water and wetlands: There should be no long term surface water quality impacts as a result of this project. Wetlands permits for this project will be requested as required. Best Management Practices (“BMP’s”) will be implemented where appropriate.

Wildlife: No impacts to wildlife are anticipated from this project.

Social and Economic: The immediate social impact from the project will be some disruption of traffic and the increase of noise in the neighborhood around the project during the construction period.

User rates are anticipated to increase as result of this project, however the overall economic impact on the ratepayers will be reduced through the use of the state revolving loan fund because the ratepayers qualify for up to 30% disadvantaged system assistance.

Recreation and Historic: No impacts to recreational or historic sites are anticipated as a result of this project.

Indirect impacts: There are no indirect impacts anticipated from this project.

Whereas this project constitutes only a minor project and no significant environmental impacts are anticipated, a finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is proposed.

VII. PUBLIC REVIEW

The Governing Body of the City of Franklin voted to authorize funding for the proposed improvements to the water system on July 7, 2008.

A public notice will be published by the City of Franklin and a thirty-day comment period will be held in accordance with the DWSRF rules.