

Categorical Exclusion and Extraordinary Circumstances Review Form

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

I. General Information

Project Name	WIFIA Id Number
Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility Expansion and Advanced Wastewater Treatment Conversion Project	20101FL
Borrower Name	
Sarasota County	
Project Description	
The County's Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Expansion and Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) Conversion Project upgrades the Bee Ridge WRF from an advanced secondary treatment to an AWT facility and expands the WRF's capacity from 12 to 18 million gallons per day (MGD). The Project upgrades the Bee Ridge WRF's treatment processes, with the construction of new biological nutrient removal basins and membrane bioreactor (MBR) system.	
Project Location Description <i>(street address/city/state/ZIP code; site characteristics)</i>	
The Project will be located at the existing Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility at 5550 Lorraine Road, Sarasota, Florida.	

II. EPA Contact for Environmental Review on this Project (If different from Responsible Official)

Name	Title	Phone Number
Ashley Longrie	Environmental Engineer	(202) 564-1935

III.A. Categorical Exclusion Eligibility *(Check YES or NO)* Complete the following questions in their entirety to determine if the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii). Additionally, supporting statements and documentation can be included in Attachment 1.

If yes to any, CATEX applies	Does the project involve actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (e.g., sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) and involve:		
	YES	NO	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor upgrading
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and its components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction of new minor ancillary facilities next to or on the same property as existing facilities
If yes to any, CATEX does not apply	Will the project include actions that:		
	YES	NO	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will likely result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Directly or indirectly involve or relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purpose of future development

Project Name		WIFIA Id Number
Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility Expansion and Advanced Wastewater Treatment Conversion Project		20101FL
III.B. Extraordinary Circumstances (Check YES or NO) Complete the following questions in their entirety to determine if the project involves any of the following extraordinary circumstances which would make it ineligible for a CATEX pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10). Additionally, supporting statements and documentation can be included in Attachment 1.		
YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1) Is the action known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2) Is the action known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with naturally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archaeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5) Is the action known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6) Is the action known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7) Is the action known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population, including altering the character of existing residential areas or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8) Is the action known or expected to significantly cause significant public controversy about potential environmental impacts of the proposed action?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9) Is the action known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10) Is the action known or expected to conflict with federal, state, or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations?

Title of Project		WIFIA Id Number
Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility Expansion and Advanced Wastewater Treatment Conversion Project		20101FL

III.C. Extraordinary Circumstances Statement (*Check ONLY ONE box*) If the responses to Section III.A indicate the project is CATEX eligible, and if a **NO** response was recorded for each of the questions in Section III.B, then no Extraordinary Circumstances are present pursuant to 40 CFR § 6.204(b) and one of the following statements should be selected.

<input type="checkbox"/>	1) No extraordinary circumstances apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). This statement is based on either past experience with similar actions at the proposed action site resulting in a CATEX and/or information gathered as part of previous NEPA or environmental due diligence review conducted at the proposed action site . Provide any supporting documentation or references in Attachment I.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2) A statement and supporting documentation is attached explaining why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b).

IV. NEPA Review Determination and Responsible Official Signature

Sections I through III must be completed to satisfy EPA's documentation requirements for CATEX eligibility. If completion of this form indicates that a CATEX *does apply*, the Responsible Official must sign below.

Categorical Exclusion Determination The EPA finds that the proposed action is eligible for exclusion from detailed environmental review under 40 CFR § 6.204(a)(1)(ii), and will not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances delineated under 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10). Consequently, the EPA will not prepare an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment for the proposed project. The EPA may revoke this categorical exclusion if changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion or if new evidence emerges which indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist or federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

As the Responsible Official, I have determined that **this action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion** per the substantive environmental review requirements under EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 6.204. Section III.C of this form has been completed providing the required Extraordinary Circumstances Statement.

_____ Signature of Responsible Official	Director of Office of Wastewater Management _____ Title	_____ Date
--	--	---------------

Title of Project	WIFIA Id Number
Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility Expansion and Advanced Wastewater Treatment Conversion Project	20101FL
Attachment 1. CATEX Eligibility and/or Extraordinary Circumstances Statement(s)	
<p>The space below may be used for a statement and supporting documentation explaining CATEX eligibility why no extraordinary circumstances exist or apply to the proposed action pursuant to 40 CFR §§ 6.204(a)(1) and 6.204(b). Attach additional pages as needed.</p>	
<p>The census blockgroup where the Project is located has a people of color and low-income population less than the comparative state and county levels; therefore, EPA has determined there are not communities with environmental justice concerns present within the Project area. The Project does not appear to be in or is not anticipated to impact Indian country.</p>	
<p>EPA prepared the official endangered species list using the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system on September 16, 2021, which identified 15 threatened or endangered species with the potential to occur in the Project area. On September 16, 2021, EPA received a Consistency letter for the Project for specified threatened and endangered species that may occur in the proposed project locations, pursuant to the IPaC determination key titled, 'Clearance to Proceed with Federally-Insured Loan and Grant Project Requests.' Based on the answers provided in the IPaC determination key, the proposed project is unlikely to have any detrimental effects to federally listed species or critical habitats.</p>	
<p>The EPA submitted a review request to the Florida State Clearinghouse on July 1, 2021, under Section 106 of the NHPA with the determination of no effect to historic resources and a consistency determination under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). On August 29, 2021, a response was received from the Clearinghouse that the State has no objections to the allocation of federal funds for the project.</p>	
<p>Freshwater and riverine wetlands exist within and adjacent to the Bee Ridge WRF site. At this time, no impacts to waters of the United States are anticipated. Many of the Project components are still in design and will be designed and sited to minimize impact to wetland systems within the area. The County will be responsible to notify and obtain any necessary permits from responsible agencies of the Project, including USACE. The County shall conduct regulatory permitting and if required, mitigate impacts to any jurisdictional waters and wetlands.</p>	
<p>The proposed activity does not involve capture, transport, exhibition, collection, control or disturbance of eagles, or eagle parts. The project will not affect marine mammals, federal or Indian lands, floodplains, sole source aquifers, farmland, coastal barriers, wild and scenic rivers, or wilderness areas.</p>	