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September 20, 2017

Ms. Deborah S. Wilkes, Technical Services Section
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Safe Drinking Water Program
Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes Barre, PA 18701-1915

Subject: Pine Grove Borough
South Tulpehocken Street Water Main Replacement
PENNVEST Categorical Exclusion Request

Dear Deborah:

On behalf of Pine Grove Borough (Borough), please consider this letter as our request for a Categorical Exclusion from the State's Environmental Review Process for the above-referenced project. The South Tulpehocken Street Water Distribution Main Replacement Project (Project) is located in the Borough of Pine Grove, Schuylkill County.

Project Description

The Project includes construction of approximately 2,700 lineal feet of water distribution main and appurtenances along South Tulpehocken Street (SR 443), between West Wood Street and East Pottsville Street. The enclosed Project Location Map shows the general location of the Project components.

The water main replaces a portion of existing 4-inch and 8-inch water mains with a history of leaks and water main breaks due to the pipes age. The street is due to be repaved by PADOT and the Borough wants to replace the main before that project takes place. Fire hydrants, service lines, interconnections to side streets and related valves and appurtenances are included in the Project.

The water main will be installed on the other side of the road to the existing main, allowing it to remain in service during construction. A small portion of the new main will be installed outside of the PADOT road, on Borough property, to enable the water main to cross over an existing storm water culvert. The rest of it will be contained within the existing PADOT traffic lane.

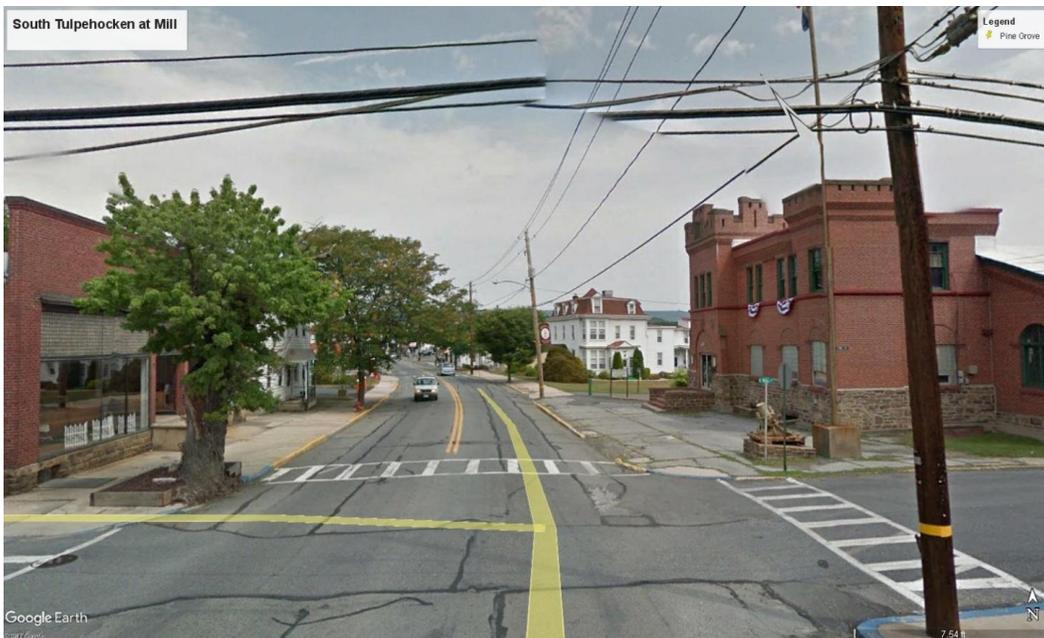
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The following screen image from Google Earth shows the existing condition of a portions the Project area, including the culvert crossing:

South Tulpehocken Street at Union Street



South Tulpehocken Street, near Mill Street. Location of culvert crossing



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Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

General categories of actions eligible for exclusions, as presented in 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1), are applicable to this Project. Specifically, 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii) states that the following categories are eligible for consideration of exclusion:

"Actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system 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) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities."

The proposed Project meets these criteria as the Project involves replacement of portions of the existing drinking water distribution system. The Project will not result in an increased permitted system capacity. Paragraph 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii) further provides reasons for not granting an exclusion:

"This category does not include actions that: involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water; will likely result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water; will provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; are not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy; or directly or indirectly involve or relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development."

The proposed Project does not include any of the conditions listed above that would prevent a categorical exclusion. The population to be served directly by the Project consists of existing residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

Paragraph 40 CFR 6.204(b) identifies several extraordinary circumstances including if the proposed action is known or expected to have potentially significant adverse impacts to several items (e.g. air quality, land use, human health, environment, endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, etc.). These areas do not apply at all to the Project. No potentially significant adverse impacts have been identified as the Project is located within paved city streets and sidewalks.

Based on the information presented above, we are requesting a Categorical Exclusion for the Project from the Pennsylvania's State Environmental Review Process.

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Draft Notice and Actions After PADEP Response

After receipt of a response from PADEP indicating that the Project appears eligible for a Categorical Exclusion, Pine Grove Borough will immediately publish a special notice in the local newspaper, announcing the establishment of a 30-day public comment period for the Categorical Exclusion. A draft of the notice is attached for your review and acceptance. We will provide you with a copy of the Proof of the Publication along with any written public comments received and responses to these comments at the end of the comment period.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at (717) 763-7211, Ext. 2629. We look forward to working with you in completing the LONP and the PENNVEST application.

Very truly yours,

David J. Kavitski, P.E.
Project Manager

Enclosures: Project Location Map
Draft Public Notice

cc: Rebecca Kennedy, Pine Grove Borough
Projects\Pine Grove\exclusion request letter 9-20-17.doc

Public Notification

Pine Grove Borough (Borough) is planning a water system improvement project, "South Tulpehocken Street Improvements," located in Pine Grove Borough, Schuylkill County, PA. The project will involve construction of a replacement water main. The Borough is applying for PENNVEST funds for this project and received notice that the project appears to be eligible for a categorical exclusion from the State Environmental Review Process. The Borough does not anticipate significant impact on user fees as a result of this project. Supporting documents are available for review at the Borough Offices, One Snyder Avenue, Pine Grove, PA 17963. Public comments regarding this public notification and project should be submitted in writing within 30 days of publication of this notice to BCM Engineers, 705 Ingham St., Freeland, PA 18224, ATTN: David Kavitski.