



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

clean water act — south carolina state revolving fund

PROJECT: Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority (GSWSA)
Bucksport WWTP Expansion Project
SRF Project # 381-82
Horry County

This Department, under Section 48-5-60 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, has the authority and responsibility to conduct environmental reviews and approve Clean Water preliminary engineering reports (PER) prepared for the State Revolving Fund Division. Our review has determined that implementation of the plan identified below will not cause a significant environmental impact and the Department hereby issues this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

This FNSI precedes approval of the revised PER entitled "Bucksport WWTP Expansion" dated August 2024. GSWSA will implement the project. The following Environmental Assessment summarizes the environmental effects of the proposed facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Need for Project: The proposed project will expand the Bucksport WWTP to address limited treatment capacity, poor screening and grit removal, and deteriorating equipment. This will allow the Bucksport WWTP to maintain a high effluent quality and remain in compliance with discharge permit limits while meeting the needs of a growing population.

Proposed Facilities: The attached figure shows the proposed project location. The project will include the addition of a new parallel treatment train and new surface water discharge. This expansion to 10 MGD includes a new preliminary treatment facility, a new anaerobic selector, two new oxidation ditches, two additional secondary clarifiers, additional return activated sludge pumping, waste activated sludge pumping and one additional belt filter press. Additionally, the effluent force main will be extended from the rapid infiltration basins (RIBs) to Bull Creek, a de-chlorination facility, and outfall diffuser in Bull Creek. This project provides additional treatment capacity at the Bucksport WWTP, additional effluent disposal redundancy with a new surface water discharge, addresses the poor screening with a new preliminary treatment facility and will replace the deteriorating equipment. The estimated capital cost for the project is \$95,100,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES



No long-term environmental impacts should result from the proposed activities. Although wetlands and floodplains occur in the planning area, the proposed project will be designed to result in minimal impacts to the areas mentioned. In addition, the proposed project will be consistent with any needed 404 permits by the Corps of Engineers (e.g. preconstruction contours will be restored).

Implementation of the proposed project is not expected to violate any of the environmental crosscutting authorities that apply to projects receiving Federal assistance. The following crosscutting authorities were considered before arriving at this conclusion: important farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, floodplains, archaeological or historical sites, threatened or endangered species, national natural landmarks, sensitive coastal zone resources, and impaired air quality. Short-term, minor disturbances associated with construction - such as traffic interference, noise, dust, vegetation loss, erosion, and sedimentation - will be minimized through the use of best-management construction practices.

COMMENTS

Comments received by 5PM December 4th will be evaluated before approval of the preliminary engineering report. If you wish to comment, please contact Kyle Maurer at kyle.maurer@des.sc.gov or write to:

Kyle Maurer Sr, PhD, PE, Manager
State Revolving Fund Project Management Section
SC DES - Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Signed,

Kyle Maurer

Kyle Maurer Sr, PhD, PE, Manager
State Revolving Fund Project Management Section





Figure 11-4: Proposed Bucksport WWTP Expansion Land Use