



## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

*clean water act — south carolina state revolving fund*

**PROJECT:** Aiken County Public Service Authority (ACPSA)  
Horse Creek Pollution Control Plant Expansion  
SRF Project # 321-31  
Aiken 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 PER entitled "Horse Creek Pollution Control Plant Expansion" dated August 2024. ACPSA 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 bring the effluent treatment capacity to the necessary 26 MGD to meet wastewater demands. The Horse Creek Pollution Control Facility was upgraded in 2020 to increase its influent treatment capacity to 26 MGD. This project will help address requirements of the SCDES Consent Order addressing sludge handling at the facility.

**Proposed Facilities:** The attached figure shows the proposed project location. The project will allow the Horse Creek WWTP to meet the more stringent NPDES limits resulting from the expansion of 20 MGD to 26 MGD. Improvements include continuing to uplift Aeration Basin No. 1 to include additional aeration and equalization capacity using a fine-bubble aeration tank, the addition of a third manual bar screen, the addition of a third chlorine contact chamber, the installation of a sludge dryer, and the construction of a second 4 MG solids handling tank. The estimated capital cost for the project is \$58,700,500.

### 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 January 6, 2025, 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](mailto:kyle.maurer@des.sc.gov) or write to:

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Signed,

**Wayne J. Shealy, P.E., Division Director**  
State Revolving Fund Division





## Aiken County PSA

Horse Creek PCF  
08/02/2024