

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Town of Princeton : Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service (RUS), USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the RUS, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by the Town of Princeton, in Johnston County, North Carolina. The proposal is for the rehabilitation and expansion of the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The existing site is limited in available space, so additional property would need to be purchased adjacent to the existing site. Town of Princeton has applied to RUS for funding of the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kayla Lee, Area Specialist, RUS, Lumberton Area Office; 910-887-3725; Kayla.Lee@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Town of Princeton is experiencing a significant amount of inflow and infiltration (I&I) within the gravity sewer collection system. The Town's WWTP has a maximum design capacity of 275,000 gallons per day (gpd). Based on flow data provided by the Town, the WWTP's average daily flow rate for 2023 is 0.179 MGD. However, in 2021 the average daily flow rate was 0.256 MGD, about 92.8% of the plants current treatment capacity. The Town has been put under a moratorium and is unable to construct any new sewer lines until the WWTP has been expanded. The Town proposes to rehabilitate and expand the current WWTP which would continue to operate, with some repairs and alterations to accommodate the installation of additional capacity on the adjacent site. The adjacent site would have new WWTP components installed, including an influent pump station, multi-step isometric expansion units, an equalization basin, a disinfection system, an office / lab building, a sludge handling mechanism, tertiary disc filters, and associated electrical, site, yard piping, and miscellaneous work. This site would essentially function as its own WWTP, outside of the shared headworks and effluent pump station. The WWTP adjacent to the existing plant would utilize similar technology as exists currently to provide operational simplification.

TRC Companies, Inc., an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for RUS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the contact information provided above. RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below:

