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Catherine B. Templeton, Director

*Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment*

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

*safe drinking water act – south carolina state revolving fund*

**PROJECT:** Hilton Head Number 1 Public Service District  
Automatic Meter Reading/Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project  
Beaufort County

This Department, under Section 48-5-40 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, has the authority and responsibility to conduct environmental reviews and approve drinking water preliminary engineering reports (PER) prepared for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program.

Our review has determined that the nature of this project is such that a full environmental review is not warranted and that the PER is substantially exempt from environmental review requirements, including Federal environmental crosscutting authorities, under the State Environmental Review Process. The Department has determined that the proposed project will not individually, or cumulatively over time, have a significant effect on the quality of the environment, and hereby issues this Categorical Exclusion (CE).

The issuance of this CE coincides with the approval of the PER titled "Automatic Meter Reading/Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project," dated October 22, 2013. The report recommends retrofitting all of the District's existing commercial and residential meters (approximately 12,000) with automated meter reading (AMR) capability, as well as installing two (2) tower base stations and advanced metering infrastructure software. The upgrade to a fixed-network system will improve distribution system operations and provide the most up-to-date technology for water accountability. The proposed construction will not require any undisturbed land to be cleared or used. The estimated capital cost for the proposed project is \$2,525,000. Hilton Head Number 1 Public Service District will implement the plan.

David E. Wilson, Jr., P.E.  
Chief, Bureau of Water