



## State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

### PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**EVANSVILLE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY  
Bee Slough Advanced Facility Plan – Phase II  
SRF # WW14 21 82 16**

**Date: September 30, 2016**

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the Evansville Water and Sewer Utility's Preliminary Engineering Report will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

*How were environmental issues considered?*

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.

*Why is additional environmental review not required?*

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

*How do I submit comments?*

Comments can be submitted to:

April Douglas  
Senior Environmental Manager  
SRF Programs  
317-234-7294  
adouglas@ifa.in.gov

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**CATEGORICAL  
EXCLUSION**

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**I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

Project Name and Address: **Bee Slough Advance Facility Plan,  
Phase II**  
Evansville Water and Sewer Utility  
1 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,  
Room 104  
Evansville, IN 47740-0001

SRF Project #: WW 14 21 82 16

Authorized Representative: Michael Labitzke, Deputy Director of  
Utilities  
Evansville Water & Sewer Utility

**II. PROJECT LOCATION**

No construction will occur to implement this project. This planning work addresses the second phase of the Bee Slough Advanced Facility Plan (AFP).

**III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE**

The Evansville Water and Sewer Utility (EW&SU) entered into a Consent Decree (CD) with the U.S. EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in 2010. This was subsequently approved by the Federal District Court for the Southern District of Indiana in June of 2011 to address combined sewer overflows (CSOs). Therefore, the Utility developed an Integrated Overflow Control Plan (IOCP) with the final Negotiated Plan being approved in January of 2016. The IOCP specifically identifies proposed control measures for control of CSOs into Bee Slough.

These control measures identify three main components which include:

- CSO #001 outfall conveyance to (1) a discharge pumping station, (2) constructed wetlands and (3) disinfection unit;
- CSOs #002 and #004 combined conveyance to a new satellite CSO treatment facility to tie-in to the East wastewater treatment plant (WWTP); and
- Capacity upgrades to the East WWTP to handle additional wet weather flows.

Two alternatives were evaluated including the No Action Alternative:

A. No Action Alternative

The “No Action” alternative was rejected, since untreated combined sewer discharges would continue to occur in Bee Slough and the Utility would also be in violation of the CD.

B. Develop Advanced Facility Planning (AFP) for Bee Slough

This alternative addresses the development of an AFP for the purpose of designing future wastewater infrastructure projects for the Bee Slough remediation area. **This was the selected alternative.**

The selected alternative includes:

1. CSO #001 outfall conveyance to a discharge pumping station, constructed wetlands and disinfection unit includes:
  - a. Conveyance of the discharge from the existing outfall to a new pumping station via a new 108-inch pipe. This is the diameter of the pipe that currently outfalls into the Bee Slough. This 108-inch pipe will be extended from the existing outfall location to the influent of the new discharge pumping station. Additionally, two new diversion structures will be added to the 108-inch relief sewer if a non-typical rain event should occur that the pump station and wetland are unable to manage;
  - b. New discharge pumping station includes: influent coarse and fine screening, screening collection and removal, grit collection and removal, odor control, and have a minimum capacity of 198 million gallons per day (MGD), as required per CD and IOCP;
  - c. Constructed wetlands treatment facility with a volume of 42 million gallons, as required per CD and IOCP;
  - d. New disinfection unit treating the constructed wetlands effluent; and
  - e. Final disinfected wetlands effluent to be discharged to Bee Slough or the Ohio River via a gravity sewer or pumping station.
2. CSOs #002 & CSO #004 combined conveyance to a new satellite CSO treatment facility that will be connected to the East WWTP includes:

The development of a plan for placement of a CSO treatment facility to receive overflows from Cass Avenue (CSO 002) and Adams Street (CSO 004). The CSO treatment facility will also have a connection and interaction with the East WWTP.

3. Capacity upgrades to the East WWTP to handle additional wet weather flows includes:

The development of a plan for increasing the capacity of the East WWTP for 40 million gallons per day (MGD). The plan will provide the recommended facilities, location, general layout, and interface with the CSO treatment facility.

#### **IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING**

Total cost of this planning effort will be approximately \$3,936,400. Evansville will finance the project with a loan from the SRF Loan Program for a 20-year term at an annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

#### **V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES**

This planning project does not involve any construction. Consistent with 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1) in the implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act, the SRF has determined that the proposed undertaking is not a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

#### **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A properly noticed public hearing was held on July 28, 2016, at 6:30 pm at the Evansville/Vanderburgh Public Library – Central Library to discuss the PER. No written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the hearing.