



REGION 4

ATLANTA, GA 30303

July 10, 2024

Ms. Nikki Gilmer
Environmental Project Manager
Florida Department of Transportation, District One
801 N. Broadway Avenue
Bartow FL, 33830

Subject: Sole Source Aquifer Review/Concurrence for State Road 710 from US 441 to L-63N Canal, Financial Project ID #419344-3, Okeechobee County, Florida

Dear Ms. Gilmer:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 received the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) request on May 10, 2024, to review the above referenced project pursuant to Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), [42 U.S.C. § 300h-3](#). The objective of the EPA's review is to determine if the project lies within the boundaries, including recharge and streamflow source zones, of an EPA designated Sole Source Aquifer (SSA), and to determine if the project poses potential adverse health or environmental impacts. A SSA is the sole or principal water source for a designated area.

State Road 710 from US 441 to L-63N Canal project related to roadway improvements including construction of a four lane divided roadway, culvert, and a bridge in the county undertaken by FDOT, has been determined to lie inside the designated boundaries of the Biscayne Sole Source Aquifer and based on the information provided, may cause a significant impact to the aquifer system when the project's road construction and/or construction dewatering are undertaken. However, with proper implementation of best management practices (BMPs), these potential impacts can be adequately reduced or properly mitigated. To that effect, when constructing roads, the FDOT must adhere to the BMPs provide listed below.

1. FDOT Design Manual Chapter 320 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
2. FDOT Standard Specification for Road and Bridge Construction,
 - a. Section 6 – Control of Materials
 - b. Section 104 – Prevention, Control, And Abatement of Erosion and Water Pollution
 - c. Section 455 – Structures Foundations
3. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Engineering Geology Field Manual – Chapter 20 Water Control.
<https://www.usbr.gov/tsc/techreferences/mands/geologyfieldmanual-vol2/Chapter20.pdf>

Furthermore, all debris from any demolition of the existing structures must be properly contained and removed from the site prior to construction of the new structure. If applicable, all county flood plain management plans and public notification processes must be followed. During construction, it is the EPA's understanding and expectation that those responsible for the project will strictly adhere to all Federal, State, and local government permits, ordinances, planning designs, construction codes, operation, maintenance, and engineering requirements, and any contaminant mitigation recommendations outlined by federal and state agency reviews. All best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control must also be followed and State and local environmental offices must be contacted to address proper drainage and storm water designs. Additionally, the project manager should contact State and local environmental officials to obtain a copy of any local Wellhead Protection Plans. The following website provides information regarding the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program.

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/Default.html>.

The EPA finds that, if the conditions outlined above are adhered to, this Project should have no significant impact to the aquifer system. Please note that this "no significant impact" finding has been determined based on compliance with the requirements outlined above and, on the information provided. Further, this finding only relates to Section 1424(e) of the SDWA, [42 U.S.C. § 300h-3](#). If there are any significant changes to the project, the EPA Region 4 office should be notified for further review. Other regulatory groups within the EPA responsible for administering other programs may, at their own discretion and under separate cover, provide additional comments.

Thank you for your concern with the environmental impacts of this project. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jayeeta Chakraborty at 404-562-8845 or Chakraborty.Jayeeta@epa.gov or Mr. Larry Cole at 404-562-9474 or Cole.Larry@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Khurram Rafi, Manager
Groundwater and GIS Section
Safe Drinking Water Branch
Water Division
U.S. EPA, Region 4

cc: Jeffrey James, Project Manager, FDOT, Jeffrey.James@dot.state.fl.us
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