

General Categories of Projects That Qualify for a Categorical Exclusion (CE)

Under 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii), minor actions relating to an existing infrastructure system (a sewer collection network and treatment system; a system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; or a stormwater system) may qualify for a CE. Answer 1 to 3.

1. Is the project for minor upgrade or minor expansion of system capacity?

This includes, but is not limited to: minor extensions of sanitary sewers or force mains or drinking water extensions to primarily serve existing development; stormwater detention pond and retention pond cleaning and dredging or minor storage increase or culvert upgrades to serve existing development.

Yes

No

2. Is the project for rehabilitation of existing facilities?

This includes, but is not limited to: functional replacement of existing systems and components, infiltration and inflow corrections in the existing wastewater collection system or equipment rehabilitation at the existing wastewater plant, pumping, or storage facilities; drinking water system equipment replacement or modifications at an existing water plant, or pumping and storage facilities; stormwater culvert and outlet rehabilitation and repair.

Yes

No

3. Is the project for new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities?

This includes, but is not limited to: new wastewater facilities and equipment for sludge handling, screening, flow equalization, disinfection, or laboratory facilities; new drinking water facilities such as alum sludge handling, filtration, flow equalization, chemical storage, chlorination, or laboratory facilities; facilities at existing stormwater control locations, such as sedimentation basins, infiltration trenches, detention pond to retention pond retrofits, or oil and grit separators.

Yes

No

If the answer to all of the above is No, then the project does not qualify for a CE. STOP. If any answer is Yes, proceed to the next section: Excluding Factors.

Excluding Factors

1. Project will involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water

Yes

No

2. Project will result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loadings of pollutant to the receiving water

Yes

No

3. Project will provide capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population

Yes

No

4. Project will be in conflict with state or other regional growth plan or strategy

Yes

No

5. Project will directly or indirectly relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development

Yes

No