

Notice of the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

The USDA, Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from the City of Flatonia. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, an Environmental Assessment has been prepared, which evaluated the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposed project. This notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment for the public review and comment.

The water project will include a new water well, ground storage tank, elevated storage tank, emergency generator, water utility warehouse, arsenic removal, and water distribution lines. The wastewater project will include replacing and installing new sewer lines, manholes, and services.

The proposed facilities were designed to be in accordance with the minimum TCEQ requirements and will provide for a moderate growth rate in the future. All new lines (water and sewer) will follow existing rights-of way or existing line routes cross-country. A couple of new water and sewer routes were chosen to go cross-country due to receptive landowners and the most direct route. Therefore, alternative routes for the proposed line routes were not considered. The wastewater lines to be replaced are those under most duress. Similarly, the proposed water lines are located in areas that will provide a closed loop to the existing system. An alternative to the construction of a new warehouse was considered and was determined to be unfeasible. The need to protect materials and supplies is very important. The new water well alternative was considered and determined that it was necessary due to difficulties finding good quality water in the shallower zones. The discussion was held to evaluate the retention of the old elevated storage tank downtown or remove and construct a new tank. Economics and safety dictate that the City construct a new tank.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review at the USDA Rural Development Office located at Seguin, Texas. For further information contact Mr. Cliff Lehmann, USDA - RUS, 3251 N. Hwy. 123 By-Pass, Seguin, Texas 78155 (830)372-1043 ext. 123. Any person interested in commenting on this proposed project should submit comments to the address above by January 18, 2003.