



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Drinking Water Distribution Expansion

for Colonia Luis Donaldo Colosio, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of a Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant to the Water and Wastewater Utilities of Nogales, Sonora (Organismo Operador Municipal de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado [OOMAPAS]) to expand their drinking water distribution system to unserved areas within Colonia Luis Donaldo Colosio. The proposed project lies within Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, which is located approximately 2.5 miles south of the international boundary.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action is to address the public health risks associated with an inadequate supply of sanitary potable water. Currently, the OOMAPAS system reaches 52 percent of the population of Colonia Luis Donaldo Colosio. The remaining 48 percent of the population receives drinking water hauled by water trucks. The proposed project would provide water service to the 3,384 residents through the installation of approximately 68,240 feet of water distribution pipeline, construction of one new water storage tank, and activation of an existing water storage tank.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), EPA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the potential transboundary environmental impacts of the proposed action. After considering a wide range of regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant adverse impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of the proposed expansion of the drinking water distribution system.

Environmental impacts in Mexico are addressed in the *Manifestación de Impacto Ambiental*, which was prepared in accordance with the environmental impact review process of the CEDES (Comision de Ecologia y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora). This analysis supports a determination that the proposed infrastructure project will not have a significant adverse impact on human health and the environment in Mexico.

PUBLIC REVIEW

The EA was circulated for public review and comment. Only one comment was received during the 30-day public review period. The letter was from the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission and it was in support of the project.

FINDING

After review of the EA, EPA has determined that the proposed drinking water distribution expansion for Colonia Luis Donaldo Colosio will not have a significant impact on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project

Alexis Strauss

Alexis Strauss, Director
Water Division

13 Jan. 2010

Date