MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
OFFICE OF BUDGET AND INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING
PRELIMINARY DECISION TO GRANT CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CE #579)

Project Name/Number:	Braddock Run and Wills Creek Water Utility Improvement DWBL/PF-0986-01L
Project Applicant:	LaVale Sanitary Commission
Project Location/County:	Cumberland, Allegany County
Total Project Cost/Loan/Local:	$2,425,000 / $2,083,900 / $ 341,100

Project Description:

The proposed project involves the replacement of an aging water transmission main along Wills Creek and the Route 40 corridor in Allegany County. The existing waterline has exceeded its useful life and is experiencing failures. The deteriorated waterline is in need of replacement. The proposed improvements will provide residents with safe and adequate drinking water, including fire protection.

The LaVale Sanitary Commission has applied for financial assistance from the Maryland Department of the Environment's State Revolving Loan Fund for the proposed project as described above. In accordance with requirements for complying with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) under COMAR 26.03.11 for such assistance, a review has been performed by the Department on the applicant's request for a Categorical Exclusion from a comprehensive environmental review under SERP. The Department has determined that the proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to COMAR 26.03.11.04 because the project constitutes functional replacement of equipment or structures. This determination is based on a careful review of the supporting documentation provided by the applicant and other documents available to the Department. In concert with this preliminary determination, the Department has also found the project to be consistent with the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy in accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1992.27, and Maryland's Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Policy, in accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1998.04.

As a result of the above determination, the applicant will not need to prepare and/or finalize an Environmental Information Document, and the Department is prepared to approve the applicant's request for financial assistance without further environmental review.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with the above preliminary decision may be submitted for consideration by writing to:

Rajiv Chawla, Division Chief
Region I Project Management Division
Office of Budget and Infrastructure Financing
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

After evaluating any comments received, the Department will make a final decision no sooner than 20 calendar days from the date of this notice. No administrative action will be taken with respect to this proposal during this timeframe.

Walid Saffouri, P.E., Program Administrator
Engineering & Capital Projects Program
Office of Budget and Infrastructure Financing