November 4, 2026
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION
PRELIMINARY DECISION TO GRANT CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CE #713)

Project Name/Number	Town of Chesapeake City Lead Service Line Inventory and Replacements/DWBL/PF-1114-08L
Project Applicant:	Town of Chesapeake City
Project Location/County:	Various locations in Town of Chesapeake City, Cecil County
Total Project Cost/Loan:	$3,100,000 / $3,100,000

Project Description: The project entails conducting a service line inventory in the Town of Chesapeake City area to achieve compliance with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions/Improvements (LCRR/LCRI). The primary objective is to identify lead service lines, galvanized line requiring replacement (GRR) and lead containing components, such as goosenecks and pigtails, through historical record reviews and field investigations. Based on these findings, the Town will establish a strategic replacement plan to systematically remove, and upgrade identified lead and GRR infrastructure. Completing this inventory and the necessary replacements will safeguard public health and ensure regulatory compliance.

The Town of Chesapeake City has applied for financial assistance under the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) State Revolving Loan Fund for the proposed project as described above. In accordance with requirements for complying with the State Environmental Review Procedures (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 funding for planning and 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 this preliminary decision may be submitted for consideration by writing to:

Sunita Boyle, P.E., Chief
Region II Project Management Division
Engineering & Capital Projects Program
Water and Science Administration
Maryland Department of 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
Water and Science Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment