



## OFFICE OF LOCAL DEFENSE COMMUNITY COOPERATION

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### National Environmental Policy Act Determination Watermain Connection Project, Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program, Lowndes County – Moody Air Force Base, Georgia

The Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) reviewed the attached National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) determination from Moody Air Force Base (AFB) for proposed improvements to the installation's water system. The OLDCC Grantee, Lowndes County, proposes to connect the Moody AFB potable water system to the County's system under Bemiss Road. The Proposed Action will benefit Moody AFB and the surrounding community by providing additional resilience to Moody's water supply during emergencies or water shortages, and for fire extinguishing operations.

OLDCC is the grantor of federal funding under the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) Program, which seeks to address deficiencies in community infrastructure that support military installations in order to enhance military value, installation resilience, and/or military family quality of life. The attached documentation was prepared by the OLDCC Grantee for Moody AFB, who reviewed the environmental analysis and executed a "Request for Environmental Impact Analysis, Moody AFB Connection to Lowndes County Water System," Categorical Exclusion determination and Air Force Form 813, pursuant to Department of the Air Force NEPA regulations at 32 CFR Part 989, "Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)." Moody AFB applied Categorical Exclusion Appendix B A2.3.14 for "Installing on previously developed land, equipment that does not substantially alter land use (i.e., land use of more than one acre)" (Attachment 1). OLDCC agrees with this determination and finds the attached documentation appropriately evaluates the proposed action.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations" at 40 CFR §1506.3, OLDCC may adopt another agency's determination that a Categorical Exclusion applies to a proposed action if the action covered by the original Categorical Exclusion determination and OLDCC's proposed action are substantially the same. The action evaluated in the Moody AFB Categorical Exclusion determination is the same proposed project that is the subject of the OLDCC award. Further, OLDCC agrees the Proposed Action will not have significant individual or cumulative environmental impacts, meets the criteria for the listed Categorical Exclusion, and that no extraordinary circumstances exist to preclude use of the Categorical Exclusion. Therefore, OLDCC adopts the Air Force Categorical Exclusion determination for the subject project as supported by the analysis and documentation provided in the following attached files, which are incorporated by reference herein:

- "Request for Environmental Impact Analysis, Moody AFB Connection to Lowndes County Water System," Air Force Form 813 Categorical Exclusion Determination signed by John L. Eunice, Deputy Base Civil Engineer, on September 14, 2023; also includes additional supporting consultation records (Attachment 1- Lowndes County - Moody Air Force Base Categorical Exclusion Form 813).

The Categorical Exclusion determination and supporting materials demonstrate that the Proposed Action will have no significant environmental impacts and therefore does not require further assessment. The documentation constitutes a complete NEPA determination and shows that the Categorical Exclusion listed in 32 CFR 989 Appendix B A2.3.14 is applicable to this project.

OLDCC has independently reviewed the attached documentation and finds that implementation of the Proposed Action will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Moody AFB is located within an air attainment area and the Proposed Action will have no permanent or significant effects on air quality. The proposed project site is not located within a wetland or floodplain and will have no effect to these resource areas. The Grantee must follow the project design best management practices as stated in the Moody Categorical Exclusion to prevent erosion and protect runoff, as well as limiting nuisance dust (Attachment 1). Typical construction noise is expected but will be temporary and not significant. The Grantee is responsible for obtaining any remaining state or county permits that may be required.

Based on Moody staff site surveys there are no rare, threatened, or endangered species present in the project area (Attachment 1). Therefore, no effects to threatened or endangered species are anticipated. Moody AFB consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) pursuant to National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. The SHPO identified potential historic properties nearby but found the project would have no adverse effect to historic properties (Attachment 1). Seven federally recognized tribal governments were invited to consult concerning the Proposed Action; no responses were received. If human remains, funerary objects, cultural items, or archaeological materials are encountered during project construction and related work, activity in the area must cease immediately and appropriate Native American tribal government contacts, SHPO, OLDCC, and Moody AFB must be contacted for additional guidance.

The action for which the Grantee and Moody AFB prepared and executed the attached Categorical Exclusion determination (Attachment 1) is the same action as OLDCC's Proposed Action and applying the Air Force Categorical Exclusion at 32 CFR 989 Appendix B A2.3.14 is an appropriate NEPA determination for this project. Therefore, OLDCC adopts the Categorical Exclusion determination per 40 CFR § 1506.3. Further, OLDCC, as the adopting agency, confirms that none of the circumstances listed in 40 CFR § 1506.3(e) are present.

I have determined that the information provided in the documents referenced above provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Patrick J. O'Brien  
Director

Attachments:  
As stated