

POTENTIAL DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL RESTORATION PROJECTS:

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO ASSIST WITH PROJECT ASSESSMENT

To help you propose projects to the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we developed this project submission form. You are not required to complete this form to submit a project. However, completion of the form will help DEP gather the information required to completely and accurately evaluate a project against the selection and evaluation criteria. Where appropriate in the form, please provide references to any additional supporting information.

Project Name: *(Include project number from DEP's existing list of submitted projects, if applicable.)*

Otter Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade and Re-use Main

Contact Information:

Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners

3093 Crawfordville Hwy

Crawfordville, FL 32327

Location for Project Implementation: *(For example, city and county, GIS coordinates if known.)*

30° 04'56"N, 84° 25'00"W

Medart, Wakulla County, FL

Brief Project Narrative: *(Describe what the project will do.)*

Modifications to the existing Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) that will allow for increased capacity and increased treatment levels. The existing facility is designed and permitted to treat 600,000 GPD. The proposed facility will treat 950,000 GPD and will provide high-level disinfection so that 300,000 GPD of effluent can be utilized as irrigation in public facilities.

Estimated Project Costs: *(Describe the costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations and maintenance. Identify other available funding sources such as matching funds, in kind contributions or state or federal dollars. If possible, attach a schedule of anticipated costs, by year, over the anticipated project life.)*

Total Project Cost: \$4,200,000. Please see the attached cost estimate.

The Northwest Florida Water Management District has provided funding for the construction of the re-use main (\$500,000). Wakulla County has provided funding for the design and permitting of the re-use main, as well as the additional funding needed to complete construction (~\$100,000).

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Screening Criteria

S1. Technically and administratively feasible: *(Briefly describe the critical technologies involved and any relevant past experience with similar projects.)*

This project will increase the capacity of the WWTF and increase the level of treatment of the effluent. The capacity of the WWTF will be increased by the addition of increased aeration and larger clarifiers. The treatment levels will be increased by the addition of a sand filter and additional chlorination. These techniques have been successfully implemented across Florida for many years.

S2. Provides environmental benefits: *(Briefly describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project and any potential environmental costs associated with implementing or maintaining the project, e.g., loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation.)*

This project will provide many environmental benefits.

It will allow more residential and commercial users to abandon existing on-site septic tanks and tie onto the public utility. The reduction in on-site septic systems will reduce loading in environmentally sensitive areas and will therefore increase water quality.

It will allow for increased nutrient removal of the effluent from the WWTF. This will reduce nutrient loading at the point of effluent disposal.

It will allow for use of effluent as irrigation, which will reduce groundwater consumption for irrigation and will reduce utility costs for the irrigated facilities.

S3. Does not conflict with any ongoing or planned response or remediation work: *(Briefly describe ongoing response activities in the project implementation area, if any, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work.)*

This project will not interfere with any work within the project area. The land that contains the WWTF has plenty of room for expansion. The County already has an agreement with the community golf course reuse irrigation. The County has already constructed the re-use main to the golf course.

S4. Complies with applicable and relevant federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations: *(No information is needed for this screening criteria.)*

This project will adhere to all applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulation pertaining to the planning and implementation of this project.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Evaluation Criteria

E1. Will restore, rehabilitate, or replace a natural resource or service¹ believed/demonstrated to have been injured as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or associated response activities: *(Briefly describe the nature of any relationship between the new/improved resources or services and those adversely impacted by the oil spill.)*

This project will allow for increased water quality by reducing the nutrient loading along coastal communities. It will also provide for a project that would have been more feasible for the County if the reduction in sales tax revenue and ad valorem taxes were not impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

E2. Is located in, or nearby, resources or services injured by the deepwater horizon spill: *(Briefly describe where the project would be implemented with respect to past/ongoing remediation work.)*

This project will serve an area that was negatively impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. It will provide an upgrade that the County is not able to perform on it's own due to the decline in tax revenue since the spill.

E3. Is ready for implementation, e.g., design, permitting, and necessary impacts assessments have been completed: *(Briefly describe where in the permitting process the project stands along with an estimated date of when the project can be implemented if it is not currently ready.)*

The re-use main has been permitted and constructed. The agreement between the County and the community golf course has been executed.

A feasibility analysis has been performed on the WWTF upgrades, however, design and permitting has not been performed.

E4. Is cost effective: *(Briefly describe why you think the project is cost effective. Discuss whether this project is more cost effective than alternative projects which would provide similar resource or service benefits.)*

The proposed project will provide the increase in capacity and treatment levels at the least practical cost. Other methods that may have been less expensive would have been more costly to operate or would not have provided the necessary level or service.

E5. Has a high potential for long-term success as demonstrated by incorporating established/reliable methods and technologies: *(Briefly describe if/how critical methods and technologies that will be used to implement the project could be considered reliable or proven.)*

The upgrades to the WWTF will utilize processes and practices that have been successfully utilized across Florida for many years. The effluent will be able to be utilized as irrigation for the community golf course, the County recreation park, the High School, Middle School, and Elementary School. This will reduce point loading of the effluent, reduce groundwater consumption for irrigation, and reduce utility costs for the irrigating facilities.

¹ In this form, "Services" (or "natural resource services") refers to the functions performed by a natural resource for the benefit of another natural resource and/or the public. Services can be "ecological services" – physical, chemical or biological functions that one natural resource provides for another (such as provision of food) – or "human services" – the use of natural resources used by humans that provide value to the public (such as hunting and fishing).

E6. Is likely to provide benefits rapidly following implementation: *(Briefly describe the anticipated change in benefits anticipated over time.)*

The immediate benefit would be the decrease in nutrient loading and the decrease in groundwater consumption for irrigation. Another immediate benefit would be the increase in capacity to serve new residences and commercial users, which would provide an increase in revenue for the utility (County).

E7. Has a high likelihood of public acceptance: *(Briefly describe evidence to support the given answer based on surveys or results and assessments from past projects. Known or likely opposition to a project should be recognized.)*

This project will provide many environmental benefits in a community that is very environmentally conscience. This is the type of project that the community would support.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Submit this form via email to Jessica Kanes at Jessica.Kanes@dep.state.fl.us . If you have any questions or concerns about the process for submitting a project, please contact:

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Environmental Specialist I
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A current summary of projects is accessible through the Florida DEP's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/projects.htm> (click on "View the list of restoration project ideas").