



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

**DECISION MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Availability-Based Project Waiver of American Iron and Steel Requirements for Triple Offset Ball Valves for the Great Lakes Water Authority, MI 14 Mile Road Transmission Loop Project  
Waiver Number 05-DW-0010

**FROM:** Jennifer L. McLain, Director  
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hereby granting an availability-based project-specific waiver pursuant to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements to the Great Lakes Water Authority, Michigan, for the purchase of two (2) 24-inch triple offset ball valves for the Phase II - 14 Mile Road Transmission Loop Project. This waiver permits the use of two non-domestic triple offset ball valves because no known domestic manufacturers produce a product that meets the project's technical specifications. This project-specific waiver only applies to the use of the specified product for the referenced project funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Any other project funded by either the Drinking Water or Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) that wishes to use the same product must request a separate waiver based on the specific project circumstances.

Rationale: The AIS provision requires DWSRF assistance recipients to use specific domestic iron and steel products if the project is funded through an SRF assistance agreement unless the EPA determines that it is necessary to waive this requirement. The EPA has the authority to issue waivers in accordance with section 1452(a)(4)(C)(ii) of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The provision states in part: "[the requirements] shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency...finds that...iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality."

This project involves installation of approximately 8 miles of a 54-inch water transmission main between 14 Mile Road and 8 Mile Road in the cities of Novi and Farmington Hills to provide redundancy and prevent future loss of service in this area. The purpose of the triple offset ball valves is to provide adequate isolation and a tight seal for bi-directional flow conditions in the new 54-inch main.

The Authority examined alternate valve designs including gate valves and other types of ball valves, but these presented issues and couldn't be used for this project. Therefore, the triple offset ball valves were selected. The Authority conducted research to find a domestic manufacturer of 24-inch triple offset ball valves and provided information to the EPA demonstrating that no manufacturers produce these valves domestically.

The EPA conducted market research on the supply and availability of 24-inch triple offset ball valves and concluded that there are no domestic manufacturers of these products that meet the project's technical specifications. Per statutory requirement, the waiver request was posted on the EPA's AIS website for the mandatory 15-day public comment period, and the Agency received no public comments.

The EPA is granting an availability-based waiver from the AIS requirements to the Great Lakes Water Authority, Michigan for the 14 Mile Road Transmission Loop Project with respect to two (2) 24-inch triple offset ball valves. This waiver permits the purchase of two 24-inch triple offset ball valves using DWSRF funds as documented in the State of Michigan's waiver request submittal on behalf of the assistance recipient, dated April 9, 2020.

Legal Authority: Legal authority for the AIS requirements for DWSRF projects is included under the Safe Drinking Water Act, under the authority of section 1452(a)(4).

If you have questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, please contact Jorge Medrano, Environmental Engineer, Drinking Water Protection Division, at [medrano.jorge@epa.gov](mailto:medrano.jorge@epa.gov) or (202) 564-1968.