

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **SECTION 594 OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM SUGAR RIDGE/MERCER ROAD SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CENTER AND MIDDLETON TOWNSHIPS, WOOD COUNTY, OHIO**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Buffalo District has assessed the environmental impacts of the following proposed project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969:

#### **Section 594 Ohio Environmental Infrastructure Program Sugar Ridge/Mercer Road Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project Wood County, Ohio**

In Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Congress directed the USACE to establish a pilot program to provide environmental assistance to non-federal interests in Ohio. This program may include design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects, including projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, combined sewer overflow, water supply, storage, treatment, and related facilities, mine drainage, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development (Public Law 106-53).

The requirements for utilizing this authority include:

- Projects designed and constructed under this authority must be publicly owned.
- USACE will develop, in consultation with appropriate federal and state officials, a facilities or resource protection and development plan, including appropriate engineering plans and specifications.
- The non-federal partner(s) must establish legal and institutional structures as are necessary to ensure the effective long-term operation of the project by the non-federal interest.
- The non-federal partner(s) must provide 25 percent of design and construction costs. The non-federal cost share may be credited for design work performed by the non-federal partner, construction costs, and for land, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations.
- The non-federal partner(s) is/are responsible for 100 percent of operation and maintenance costs for projects constructed with assistance provided under this authority.

The proposed project includes the construction of a low pressure sewer system. This consists of numerous small grinder pumps serving individual properties and interconnected via a small diameter force main system. This will then transfer flows into a 4-inch diameter force main and an existing State Route 25 force main coming from the Midstar Pump Station and ultimately flowing to the Bowling Green Waste Water Treatment Plant. Proposed plans include the installation of low pressure sewer grinder pumps and 4-, 3-, 2- inch, and 1.5-inch force main pipes with air release valves along Sugar Ridge Road, Mercer Road, Long Street and Gregory

Street in the Sugar Ridge/Mercer Road area of Center and Middleton Townships. Current estimates for the project suggest that it will include installation of approximately 55 low pressure sewer grinder pumps, 7,184 linear feet of 4-inch force main, 2,462 linear feet of 3-inch force main, 1,675 linear feet of 2-inch force main, and 326 linear feet of 1.5-inch force main.

To move ahead with the proposed project, the Northwestern Water and Sewer District worked with the Poggemeyer Design Group to conduct the ecological surveys and assessments necessary under NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The No Action alternative was considered as per the requirements of NEPA. Under this alternative, existing conditions would continue with no improvements in the sanitary sewer system. This alternative was determined to not be feasible as it would be non-complaint with the Ohio EPA Director's Final Findings and Orders and continue to contaminate the surrounding environment.

The Poggemeyer Design Group completed an environmental assessment for the proposed project. Internal review of this assessment by USACE and the project's anticipated environmental impacts has found it to be technically and procedurally sufficient in addressing those factors important to the USACE funding decision. Based on the USACE Buffalo District's review of the project, it is concluded that no areas of environmental controversy are evident, all applicable and relevant environmental protection measures will be met, and implementation of the project will be completed in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.

The USACE Buffalo District has analyzed the proposed project and has concluded that the disbursement of Section 594 Program funding would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. No comments or information have been received from public review that alter my finding. This finding of no significant impact will be saved in the administrative record for the project.

DATE: 1 AUG 21

Eli S. Adams  
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander