



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

March 31, 2017

**Issuance of A Limited Environmental Review
To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and
Government Agencies**

**Northwestern Water and Sewer District
Wood County**

**Taylor St., Main St. and Oak St. Waterline Improvements
Loan Number FS391432-0128**

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the referenced project and finds neither a Supplemental Study (SS) nor an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required to implement the project as discussed in the attached Limited Environmental Review (LER). Consequently, a Finding of No Significant Impact is being issued for this project.

The Water Supply Revolving Loan Fund program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process for project approval. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the facilities plan, as well as through the facilities plan review process. A subsequent review by this Agency has found that the proposed action does not require the preparation of either an EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed project is limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria, an LER is warranted. Specifically:

- The proposed project will have no significant adverse environmental effect, nor will it adversely affect any specific resource type.
- It will not require extensive general or specific direct impact mitigation.
- It will not affect current design flow value or the existing service area.
- It is clearly cost effective.

- It is not controversial.
- It will not result in an increase in the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants to receiving water or increase the withdrawal of additional water supplies.

The LER presents additional information on the proposed project, costs and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person listed on the back of the LER.

Upon issuance of this determination, loan award may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions on the proposed projects have changed significantly.

Sincerely,



Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

**LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
For
Northwestern Water and Sewer District
Wood County**

**Taylor St., Main St. and Oak St. Waterline Improvements
Loan Number FS391432-0128**

**Applicant: Jerry Greiner, President
Northwestern Water and Sewer District
12560 Middleton Pike
Bowling Green, OH 43402**

Existing Need

The Northwestern Water and Sewer District (NWWSD) owns and operates the water distribution system that serves large portions of Wood County. NWWSD service areas in northern Wood County are provided water by the cities of Toledo and Oregon. The southern portions of the county are provided water by the City of Bowling Green. The project referenced in this Limited Environmental Review includes improvements in the Village of Weston, which is within the WL#300 service area, and which draws its water supply from Bowling Green.

The project area for the Taylor St., Main St. and Oak St. Waterline Improvements project, here forward referred to as the Taylor Street project, is within the WL#300 service area, which has a population of approximately 2,200. The distribution system includes a 250,000-gallon elevated storage tank within the Village of Weston. The village is fed by a 12-inch waterline along Sand Ridge Road from the City of Bowling Green.

Since assuming control over the Wood County water distribution system in 2011, NWWSD has reviewed potential projects to improve service, water quality, and reliability, and replace old water lines throughout the entire county. Their current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes water main rehabilitation/replacement projects, maintenance to existing tanks (including adding mixers or aerators to improve water quality) and booster pumping stations, and water line extensions to reduce the number of dead ends in the system to improve water quality. Disinfection byproducts (DBP) occur in some areas in excess of the standards established in the Disinfection/Disinfectant Byproduct Rule (DDBR). DBP include classes of compounds known as trihalomethanes (THM) and haloacetic acids, which have connections to disease in humans. DBP are formed by the interaction of residual chlorine used for disinfection with organic matter that remains in treated water. Longer exposure times of residual chlorine to the organic matter yield higher DBP levels. The DDBR requires finished water at all points in a distribution system to have DBP concentrations of no more than 0.080 micrograms per liter. In extensive distribution systems where water can have a long residence time in the pipes, DBP levels can exceed the standard at the fringes of the distribution system. This project will eliminate dead ends in water distribution pipes and create loops which will help to improve water quality. The project will also replace old, small-diameter water lines which are prone to failure, requiring boil advisories during repair activities. The existing lines also provide limited water pressure for residential service and fire protection.

There are no immediate projects planned for the WL#300 service area for service extension, pump stations or elevated tanks. NWWSD is not aware of any large developer projects in these areas that will include subdivisions and new demand for water, and there are no known areas within the WL#300 service area that are working on petitions for water. While Wood County saw its population increase by 3.6% from 2000 through 2010, the vast majority of this increase was in the northern portion of the county. There is little anticipated growth within the project area over the next twenty years, and this improvements project will provide adequate service for this limited anticipated growth and existing homes. The service agreement between Bowling Green and NWWSD specifies

no limit on the amount of water provided to the WL#300 service area. Given the low projected growth in demand and the large water supply, NWWSD can provide water to the expected 20-year service population without major infrastructure improvements.

Alternatives

An evaluation of alternatives to address the project area needs includes:

Alternative 1: No-Action

Due to the above-described existing undersized and deteriorated conditions, and the potential for DBP in the potable water services within the project area, the No-Action alternative of continuing with the current situation is not a feasible option.

Alternative 2: Taylor Street, Main Street and Oak Street waterlines.

This alternative consists of replacing the existing undersized and deteriorated waterlines and eliminating dead-ends by installing approximately 1,610 linear feet of 8-inch waterlines new hydrants, connections, and appurtenances.

Selected Alternative

Alternative 2 was chosen for this project as it not only replaces deteriorated waterlines, eliminates dead ends and creates a loop in waterlines to improve water quality, but also includes larger diameter waterlines which will allow for greater water pressure for residential service and fire protection.

The Taylor Street project includes approximately 1,610 linear feet of 8-inch waterlines, three 16-inch jack and bore railroad crossings, individual service lines and meter pits, new fire hydrants, mainline valves and restoration of pavement, drives, sidewalks and adjacent areas. The project replaces a deteriorated, existing waterline on Taylor Street, including a railroad crossing, which restricts fire flows; replaces a deteriorated, existing waterline on Main Street, which is prone to failures; and installs new waterline on Oak Street to improve flows between the east and west sides of town and create loops to eliminate waterline dead ends, improving water quality. Construction activities will include open cut trenching and three jack and bore installations in previously disturbed rights-of-way (streets, sidewalks, driveways, railroad, and buried utilities that support no wetlands, forested areas or aquatic habitat.

Implementation

The total cost of the Taylor Street project is \$348,000. NWWSD proposes to borrow the entire project amount from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA). The project service area qualifies for the small systems WSRLA below-market interest rate on 20-year loans, which in April is 1.83 percent. Borrowing at 1.83 percent will save NWWSD approximately \$73,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 3.58 percent.

Debt for the project will be repaid from a general repair and replacement fund without rate increases for the specific areas served by the improvements. The local median household income is \$44,750. Under the water rates that are effective in 2017, and based on a usage of 7,756 gallons of water per month, the average residential water bill is \$69.06 per month, or \$828.72 per year. This represents 1.84 percent of the MHI, which is considered affordable. NWWSD is anticipating an April, 2017 WSRLA loan, with construction scheduled to begin May, 2017 and to be completed by September, 2017.

Public Participation

NWWSD will send the affected residents a letter explaining the project. In addition, NWWSD has discussed the project at board meetings that were open to the public, and project information is present on NWWSD's website. Given the limited potential environmental impact of the project, the lack of a rate increase and the lack of property assessments, this is considered adequate public participation.

Conclusion

The proposed project is of a general project type (water line replacement and upgrade) that qualifies for a Limited Environmental Review. Specifically, it meets the following criteria:

It will have no significant adverse environmental effect: Construction will be limited to road/railroad rights-of way and easements that have been previously disturbed.

It will not affect any special resource type: No high-quality resources are located in the paths of construction for this project.

It will not require specific impact mitigation: The detail plans include construction best management practices to control noise, dust, odors and sedimentation, and prohibitions against placing excess excavated material from the trenches in streams, 100-year floodplains and wetlands. Given the minimal scope of this project, this is considered adequate.

It is clearly cost-effective. The option of doing nothing would leave unacceptable risks in place related to drinking water quality and water pressure for firefighting.

It is not controversial. It is affordable and, provided the construction best management practices and prohibitions on excess excavated material are followed, will have no adverse environmental impacts.

It does not involve a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water, involve any increase in volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or new facilities, create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from existing sources; or provide capacity to serve a design population substantially greater (thirty percent) than the current

design population. No discharge points or pollutant loading will be part of the project. The project does not require the expansion of Bowling Green's water treatment facility beyond its current capacity or require the addition of a supplementary water supplier, so they will not require a change in water withdrawal. Little population change is anticipated over the 20-year planning period.

The planning activities for the proposed water line project have identified no potentially significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment or to sensitive resources (floodplains, wetlands, surface water, endangered species or their critical habitat, cultural properties, raw water supplies, scenic or recreational rivers, air quality, farmland, or state and federal wildlife areas). The project is located entirely within previously-disturbed road and railroad rights-of-way. Impacts related to dust, noise and odors will be temporary and well controlled during construction.

For further information, please contact:

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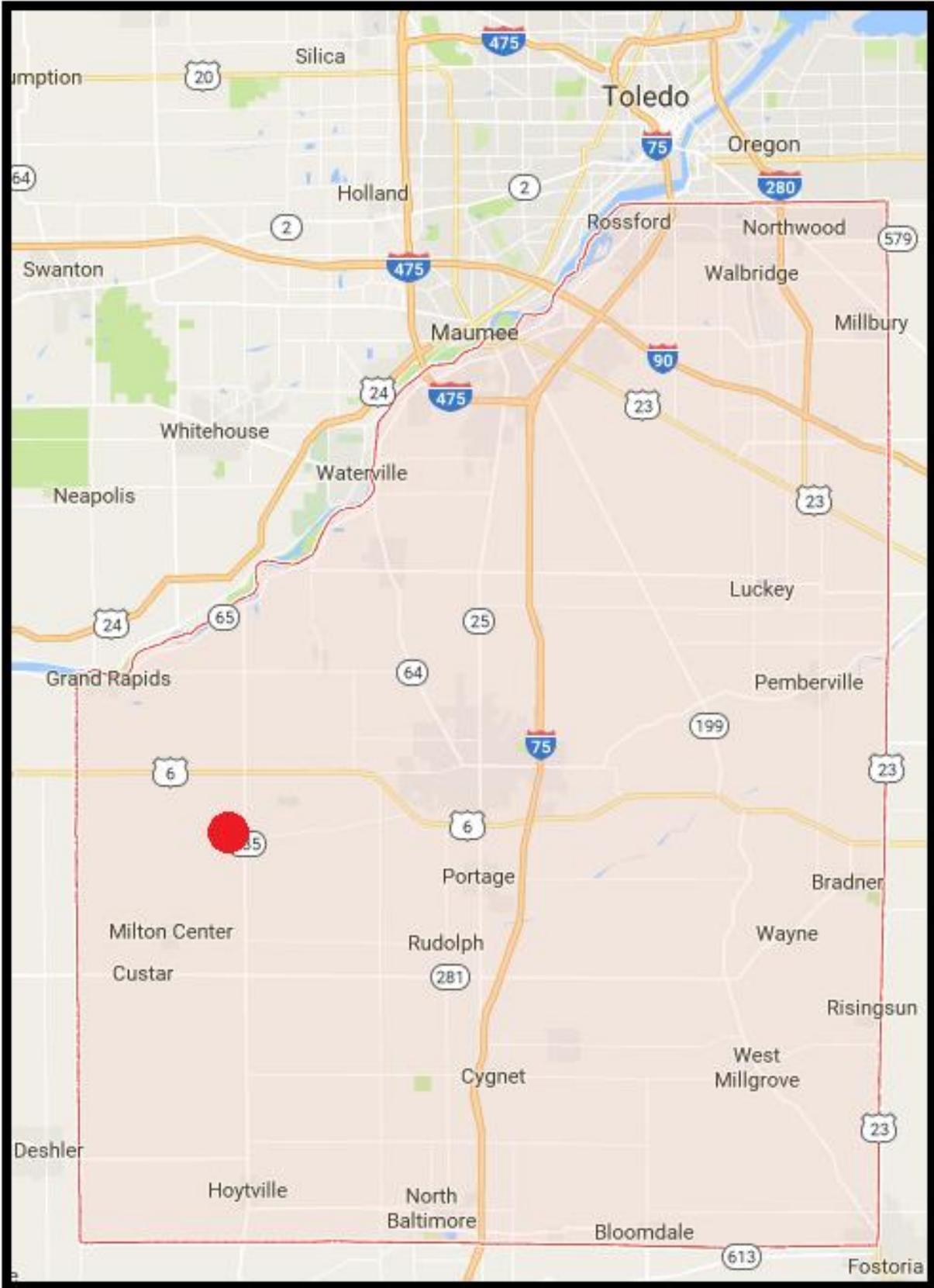


Figure 1: Project general area, in red.

