



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

July 18, 2017

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

**Northwestern Water and Sewer District
Wood County**

**Starbright Subdivision, Oregon and Ayers Road Waterline Replacement
Loan Number FS391432-0132**

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**

**Starbright Subdivision, Oregon and Ayers Road Waterline Replacement
Loan Number FS391432-0132**

**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 urban and rural customers in large portions of Wood County through approximately 429 miles of water lines. NWWSD also owns and operates two ground storage tanks, seven elevated storage tanks, and five booster pumping stations. 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 area for the Starbright Subdivision, Oregon & Ayers Road Waterline Replacement project, here forward referred to as the Starbright project, is located in Perrysburg Township. This service area is within NWWSD's Water Line 100 Area, which has a population of approximately 20,000, and which draws its water supply from Toledo. The average daily demand for Water Line 100 Area is 4.375 million gallons per day (MGD), and the peak demand is 5.762 MGD. The total cost of the Starbright project is \$1,138,992, with construction scheduled to begin August, 2017 and to be completed in five months.

Since assuming control over the Wood County water distribution system in 2011, NWWSD has reviewed potential projects to improve service, water quality, and reliability 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 waterline extensions to reduce the number of dead ends in the system to improve water quality. The Starbright project will replace old, cast iron waterlines installed in the 1970s which are prone to failure, requiring boil advisories and limiting fire control capabilities during repair activities.

There are no immediate projects planned for the Water Line 100 Area for service extension, pump stations, or new 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 Water Line 100 Area that are working on petitions for water. The service area population is projected to remain stable, and therefore the proposed water main improvements are not expected to have impacts on the existing water demands. 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 deteriorated waterline condition and the potential for continued waterline breaks requiring immediate repairs, the No-Action alternative of continuing with the current situation is not a feasible option.

Alternative 2: Replacement of waterlines in the area of the Starbright subdivision. This alternative consists of replacing the existing deteriorated waterlines by installing approximately 7,800 linear feet of waterlines, new hydrants, connections, and appurtenances.

Selected Alternative

Alternative 2 was chosen for this project as it replaces deteriorated waterlines to eliminate water losses and maintain flows for fire protection.

The Starbright project includes replacement of approximately 3,790 linear feet of 12-inch waterlines and 3,710 linear feet of 8-inch waterlines by open cut construction, 266 linear feet of 12-inch waterlines by directional bore, replacement of individual service lines, new fire hydrants, and restoration of pavement, drives, sidewalks and adjacent areas. The project replaces deteriorated, existing waterlines within and adjacent to the Starbright subdivision that experiences waterline breaks that require boil advisories and limit fire control capabilities during repair activities. Construction activities will include open-cut trenching and directional bore installations located in streets and previously-disturbed road and utilities rights-of-way that support no wetlands, forested areas, or aquatic habitat.

Implementation

The total cost of the Starbright project is \$1,139,000. NWWSD proposes to borrow the entire project amount from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA). The project service area qualifies for the standard long-term WSRLA below-market interest rate on 20-year loans, which in July is 2.0 percent. Borrowing at 2.0 percent will save NWWSD approximately \$170,400 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 3.25 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 (MHI) is \$74,271. 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 \$73 per month, or \$875 per year. This represents 1.18 percent of the MHI, which is considered affordable. NWWSD is anticipating a July, 2017 WSRLA loan, with construction scheduled to begin August, 2017 and to be completed in five months.

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 (waterline 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 paved roads, road and utilities 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 Toledo's water treatment facility beyond its current capacity or require the addition of a supplementary water supplier, so it 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 waterline 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 roads and road and utilities rights-of-way. Impacts related to dust, noise and odors will be temporary and well controlled during construction.

For further information, please contact:

R. Eric Schultz
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Phone: (614) 644-3713

E-mail: eric.schultz@epa.ohio.gov



Figure 1: Project general area, in red.



Figure 2: Project area, in red.