



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

July 27, 2018

Notice of Issuance of a Limited Environmental Review and Final  
Finding of No Significant Impact to All Interested Citizens,  
Organizations and Government Agencies

Village of West Union  
Improvements and Additions to Sanitary Sewer System - Rehab  
CS390989-0029

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the referenced project and finds that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor a Supplemental Study (SS) is required to complete the environmental review of the project. Instead, this project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER). These criteria are summarized below in this document and in the attached LER.

This project involves the repair or replacement of 15 lift stations within the Village. Work will include the removal and replacement of lift stations, including all equipment, replacing the concrete wet wells and valve pits, and associated piping for 11 lift stations and the removal and replacement of the lift station equipment, valve pit and associated piping for 4 lift stations, while reusing concrete wet wells. The project will benefit the Village of West Union by allowing the Village to save thousands of dollars in repair and maintenance costs and by helping to avoid or reduce pump failure and sanitary sewage overflows.

The LER was completed for this project as it will not individually, cumulatively over time or in conjunction with other Federal, State local or private actions have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment. Consequently, a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) can be issued now for this project.

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) program required 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 planning process. A subsequent review by this Agency has found that the proposed action does not require the preparation of a 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. Furthermore, the proposed project:

- Has no significant environmental effect;
- Does not require extensive specific impact mitigation;
- Has no effect on high value environmental resources;
- Is cost effective;
- Is not a controversial action;
- Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters;
- Will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters; and
- Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population.

A map depicting the location of the project is included as part of the LER. The LER presents information on the proposed project, its 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, a loan award may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions for the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,



Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief  
Office of Financial Assistance  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
Ohio EPA

Attachment

Cc: Vicki Saunders, DEFA-OFA, PCU  
Dennis DeNiro, DEFA-OFA, EEU  
Melissa Tucker, Loans and Grants Manager, Columbus Department of Public Utilities  
Ken Heigel, OWDA  
File

## **LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

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### **A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

Name: **Village of West Union Improvements and Additions to Sanitary Sewer System - Rehab**

Applicant Address: **Jerry Kirker, Village Administrator  
P.O. Box 395  
West Union, Ohio 45693**

WPCLF No.: **CS390989-0029**

### **B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **1. SUMMARY**

The Village of West Union in Adams County, Ohio has requested \$2,931,650 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to replace or renovate fifteen sanitary sewage lift stations in the Village. This project is Phase 1 of 3 sanitary system improvements for the Village. Phase 2 includes the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and Phase 3 includes the addition of sanitary sewers to unsewered areas. This limited environmental review (LER) addresses only Phase 1.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

##### **a. History, Existing Conditions and Need**

The Village of West Union is located in the south-central part of Adams County, Ohio. State Routes 41, 125, and 247 all intersect in the downtown area.

In 1989 and 1991, the Village completed two separate sanitary sewer system evaluations. These evaluations determined that the Village's sewer system was receiving excessive infiltration (clear water that enters sewers through cracks and other pipe defects) and inflow (storm runoff that enters pipes through illicit direct connections such as downspouts and area drains); collectively referred to as "I/I." The I/I has caused overflows from the Sparks Street lift station "I", surcharging in some portions of the system, and treatment bypassing and operational problems at the WWTP resulting in permit violations. A sewer system rehabilitation project was completed in 1993. The project rehabilitated 236 manholes, replaced 148 manholes, repaired or replaced 123 defective service lines, and repaired 35 points where 596 lineal feet of sewer was replaced, and 491 lineal feet of sewer was lined.

After this work was completed, the Village expanded its sewer system. The east side of the Village was sewer along SR 125 and Owens Drive. The East Side Sewer Upgrade project included the installation of gravity sewer, a lift station and force main. In 2008, Phase 1 of the Adams County Wastewater Improvements (ACWWI) project was completed, which extended sewer along SR 125 to the northwest of the Village. Phase 1 of the ACWWI included gravity sewer from the high school down SR 125 to a lift station which pumped sewer to the existing lift station at Columbus Industries. The West Union High School connected to the extended sewers in 2009 with gravity and a lift station. Phase 2 of the ACWWI project subsequently followed in

2013 to connect the neighborhoods near the high school to West Union’s sanitary sewer system.

In 2017, the Village began to investigate options for additional improvements to the sanitary sewer collection system and the wastewater treatment plant. It was determined that work should be divided into three separate phases of work: Phase 1: upgrading and replacing the Village’s existing sewage pump stations/lift stations; Phase 2: upgrading and/or replacing the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP); and Phase 3: installing new sewers to unsewered areas near the Village.

The Village’s WWTP is located along State Route (SR) 247, south of the Village. It was constructed in 1949 and underwent an expansion in 1979. The plant sees maximum daily flow during winter snow thaw and rainfalls, increasing the infiltration into the collection system. The plant is designed to treat 600,000 gallons per day (GPD) but sees peaks of 2.13 million GPD. Due to the age of the plant, its equipment and facilities, it requires either rehabilitation or replacement.

In addition to the plant, the existing sanitary sewer collection system, that was built in 1949, needs maintenance. A condition assessment of the sanitary sewer lift stations indicated the village needs to make improvements to several of its 22 existing sewage pump stations, as their mechanical equipment is at the end of its service life and many of the structures are at the end of their useful life as well.

Additionally, the Village, in cooperation with Adams County, plans to provide new sanitary sewer service to three-to-five areas adjacent the Village. These areas are referred to as the Gabbert subdivision area, the Crackle subdivision area, the Hale subdivision area, the Panhandle and Cherry Fork. Each of these areas is currently unsewered and is under evaluation by the county health department and Ohio EPA.

b. Population

The Village of West Union and Adams County population data was collected from the U.S. Census Bureau and population projections for Adams County were obtained from the Ohio Development Services Agency. The average population increase over the last 20 years was 5.4% for Adams County and 5.5% for West Union. However, the Ohio Development Services Agency predicts an overall 3.13% decline in population for Adams County through 2040. Therefore, to be conservative, it was determined that the overall population of West Union should remain at 3,241 over the design period.

The average number of people per household is 2.33. Based on water and sewer data, 1,003 residential customers and 171 commercial customers are connected to the Village’s sanitary sewer system.

c. Discussion of Feasible Alternatives (include “no-action”)

The existing lift stations needed to be rehabilitated or replaced – and three options were evaluated. Where possible, it was determined that eliminating the submersible pump stations with gravity sewer was most ideal. Removing the lift station from the system allows the Village to reduce electricity use and operation and maintenance costs. For stations that could not be replaced with a gravity sewer, the station would be replaced or rehabilitated with either a suction lift station or submersible pump station. A suction lift station was the preferred solution as it removed the valves and pumps from the wet well – minimizing the need to perform work in

confined spaces. For those locations where a suction lift station was not feasible, replacement with a submersible pump station was selected.

A no-action alternative was also evaluated. While the population and flow projections show that the current plant capacity is sufficient, evaluation of the existing plant and collection system components demonstrate that the existing pump station mechanical and electrical equipment and the mechanical and electrical equipment at the WWTP facility are beyond their useful life. Action is needed now to prevent declining performance and increased maintenance efforts. In addition, the planning area has expanded and there is a need for the Village to provide wastewater service to previously unsewered areas in the County that are experiencing failing septic systems.

d. Selected Alternative

The West Union Wastewater System includes 22 lift stations located throughout the Village (Figure 1). These lift stations pump wastewater from low-lying areas to manholes at higher elevations so the wastewater can then flow by gravity through the system. During planning, each lift station was physically inspected with operations staff from the Village.

Because of the cost associated with the project work, this project will focus on the repair or replacement of only 15 of the 22 lift stations. Work will include the removal and replacement of pump stations, including all equipment, replacing the concrete wet wells and valve pits, and associated piping for 11 lift stations and the removal and replacement of the lift station equipment, valve pit and associated piping for 4 lift stations, while reusing concrete wet wells (Figure 2). New electrical power service, instrumentation and controls will also be installed at each of the lift stations.

**C. PROJECT COSTS**

Project Cost	\$2,931,650
WPCLF Principal Forgiveness	\$2,200,000
WPCLF Loan Amount	\$731,650
WPCLF Loan Term	30 years
WPCLF Interest Rate	1% Hardship Interest Rate for amount over Principal Forgiveness Requested
Market interest rate	OWDA rate for August 3.40%
WPCLF Savings	<b>\$2,770,788</b>

**D. AFFORDABILITY**

Existing Rates	\$369.36/year \$30.78/month	
Projected User Rate	\$457.53/year \$38.09/month	The minimum monthly user rate and overage rate, each shall increase by 11.25% in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.
Community (Median Household Income) MHI	\$23,715	Based on American Community Survey
Percent of MHI	1.9%	Percent of West Union's MHI represented by the annual rate after any increases

Rates that are less than 1.8% of the MHI are generally considered affordable. However, the Village residents are aware of the cost and are in agreement that this rate increase is necessary.

**E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Information about the three phases of projects has been published a total of ten times in two different local newspapers. The projects were discussed during at least 25 different council meetings between February 14, 2017 and June 26, 2018. And the increased sewer rates were discussed at four of those meetings and mentioned in the newspapers two different times. The Village residents are in support of the projects and are in acceptance of the rate increases.

Additionally, as part of its State Environmental Review Process, Ohio EPA will post this Environmental Assessment to the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance’s (DEFA) web page located at: <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> (WPCLF Documents for Review and Comment). Ohio EPA is unaware of any public opposition to the project.

The following agencies reviewed this project’s planning information:

- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**F. PROPOSED SCHEDULE**

WPCLF Loan Award	August 2018
Begin Project	September 2018
Complete Project	June 2019

**G. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

1. Will this project have the potential to result in significant adverse environmental impact?

Impact Type			Rationale/How will Impact Type be Addressed?
	Yes	No	
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adams County meets standards for the six regulated air pollutants (carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, lead, particulate matter, and ozone). Dust from the project will be managed daily with suppression methods. For these reasons, the project should have no significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts on local air quality.
Archeological or historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The State Historic Preservation Office concurred with Ohio EPA's determination that this project will not cause a significant adverse effect to properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and will not affect archaeological sites.  In the event of archaeological finds during construction contractors and subcontractors are required to notify the State Historic Preservation Office.
Coastal zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Ohio Department of Natural Resources indicated that due to the location type of work and impacts proposed, the project is not likely to affect federal and state threatened and endangered species.
Farmland Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project sites currently house lift stations that will be replaced or upgraded; therefore this project does not propose any farmland conversion.
Fish and wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Ohio Department of Natural Resources indicated that due to the location and type of work and impacts proposed, the project is not likely to affect federal and state threatened and endangered species.
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project sites are not located within floodplains.
Ground water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No public or private ground water supply wells that could be affected by pumping from temporary dewatering wells are in the project vicinity.
Safety, Noise and Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local noise levels will increase temporarily during work at each of the lift stations; however, due to the nature of the project, no significant adverse short- or long-term impacts to noise, traffic, safety, or aesthetics are expected.
Safe drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	West Union purchases their drinking water from Adams County Regional Water District.
Surface water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project sites do not contain surface water resources.
Terrestrial habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ground disturbance at each of the project sites will be minimal and will not impact more than existing turf grass or weeds.
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project sites do not contain wetlands.
Wild and scenic rivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project sites are not near and do not contain wild and scenic rivers.
Local Topography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The local topography will be little altered by this project because the project does not require significant earthmoving.

2. Will this project require extensive impact mitigation unique to the assistance proposal?

Description of required mitigation	Required?		If needed, provide a brief explanation
	Yes	No	
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Archeological or historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Coastal zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Farmland Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Fish and wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ground water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Safety, Noise and Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Safe drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Surface water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Terrestrial habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wild and scenic rivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Local Topography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

3. Will the project adversely affect a high quality environmental resource?

Description of high quality environmental resources	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There are no high quality environmental resources on the project sites.		

4. Is the project a controversial action?

Is this project the subject of significant public interest?	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Village residents are in favor of the project.		

5. Is the project cost-effective?

Cost-effectiveness	Yes	No
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Based on the condition assessment, the Village's lift stations were ranked in order of need. Those stations that most needed repairs were identified, then it was determined if the station required replacement or rehabilitation.		

6. Potential impacts on pollutant discharge, water withdrawal, and service area?

Will this project create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge, or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters; create new sources of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing source; or provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population?	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This phase of the project will not do any of the above.		

## **H. BASIS FOR PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Based on its review of this project's general plans and other information, Ohio EPA concludes that no significant short-term or long-term adverse direct environmental impacts will result from the project as related to the environmental features discussed in this Environmental Assessment. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts of construction will be temporary and mitigated.

This project equally serves the entire Village of West Union and no segment of the community will be faced with additional adverse impacts or be deprived of environmental benefits, compared to any other segment.

For these reasons, this project, alone or in combination with other projects, is not expected to result in any significant indirect or cumulative short-term or long-term adverse environmental impacts.

The project will replace or renovate 15 lift stations in the Village of West Union to help avoid or reduce failure and sanitary sewage overflows. The Village will save thousands of dollars in repair and maintenance costs once the most-needed lift stations are repaired or replaced.

## **I. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

For questions about this EA, please contact:

Rose McLean  
Ohio EPA  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049  
Rose.McLean@epa.ohio.gov

Figure 1. Location of West Union Lift Stations

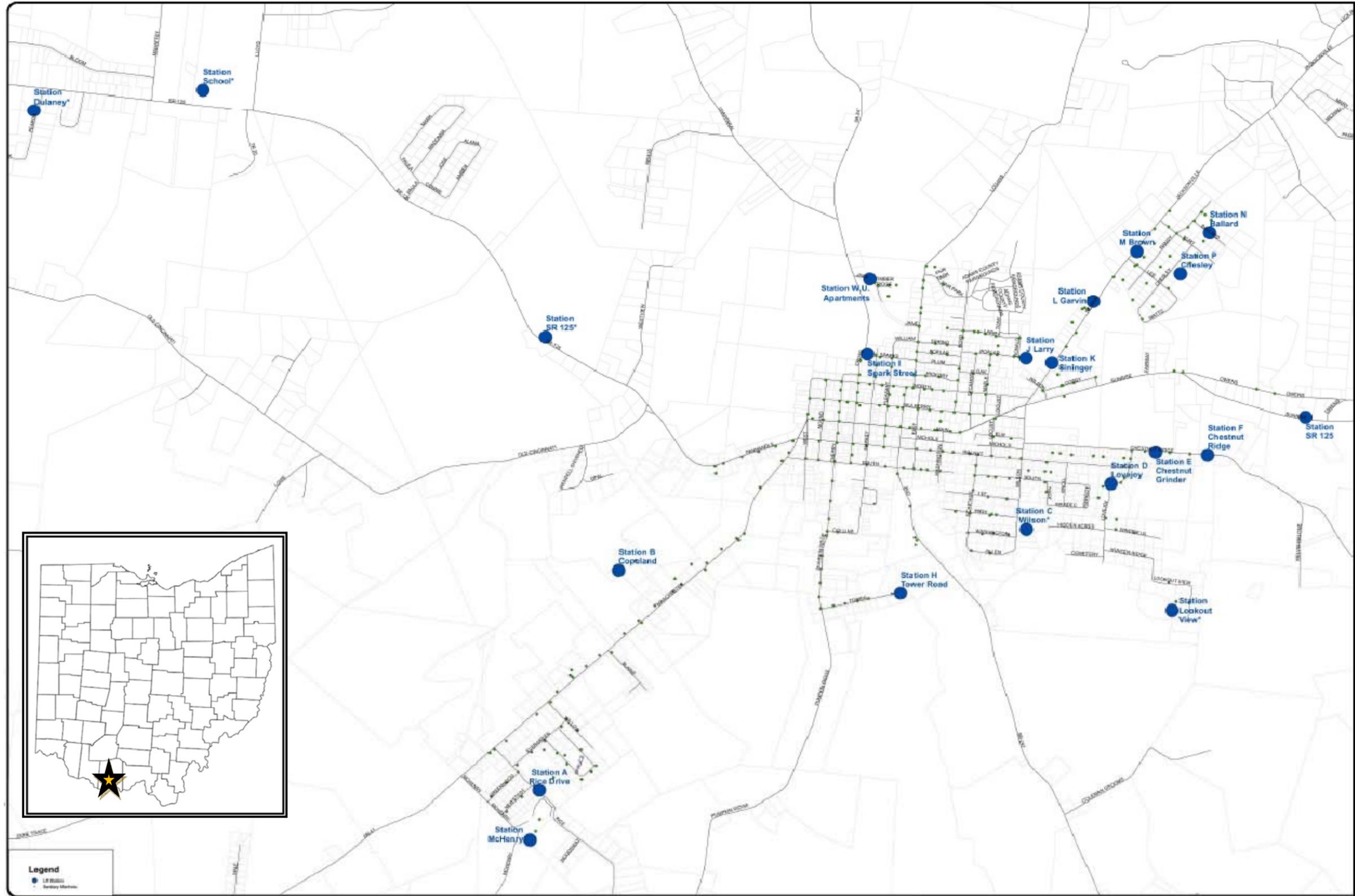


Figure 2. Village of West Union Lift Stations to be Renovated or Replaced

Lift Station Identifier	Lift Station Name	New Enclosure If yes, size	New or Reuse Existing Wet Well	Replacement with a Suction Lift or Submersible grinder	Ground Disturbance for demo and construction (ft.)	Ground disturbance for new water line (ft.)
LS I	Sparks	8x12x7 ft.	New	Suction	30x25	20
LS B	Copeland	8x12x7 ft.	Existing	Suction	30x25	345
LS C	Wilson	8x1x72 ft.	New	Suction	30x25	170
LS J	Larry	8x12x7 ft.	New	Suction	30x25	160
LS L	Garvin	no	New	Submersible grinder	30x25	15 ft. water line and 5 ft. new force main
LS P	Chelsey	no	New	Submersible grinder	30x25	160
LS N	Ballard	no	New	Submersible grinder	30x25	30
LS Mc	McHenry	6x6x7 ft.	Existing	Suction	30x25 and 12x100 new drive	630
LS W	W.U. Apts	3x6x7 ft.	Existing	Submersible grinder	30x25	650
LS A	Rice Dr.	6x6x7ft.	New	Suction	30x25	25
LS K	Sininger	8x12x7 ft.	New	Suction	30x25	30
LS M	Brown	6x6x7 ft.	New	Suction	30x25	25
LS H	Tower	no	New	Submersible grinder	30x25	80
LS F	Chestnut Ridge	no	New	Submersible grinder	30x25	30
LS V	Lookout View	3x6x7	Existing	Submersible grinder	30x25	140