



Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor  
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

October 6, 2021

**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Village of Bremen – Fairfield County  
Bremen Wastewater Facilities Improvement  
Loan number: CS390190-0002**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment equipment replacement project in Bremen which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WPCLF program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen Courtright, for*

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: Bremen Wastewater Facilities Improvement

Applicant: Village of Bremen  
9090 Marietta Street  
P.O. Box 127  
Bremen, OH 43107

Loan Number: CS390190-0002

### **Project Summary**

The Village of Bremen in Fairfield County has requested \$554,000 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for various equipment replacements in Bremen's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). This project will allow for more efficient operation and less maintenance during wastewater treatment. The project area includes no sensitive environmental resources as construction is limited to the existing footprint of the plant.

### **History and Existing Conditions**

The Bremen WWTP was originally designed in 1954 and consisted of a pump station, a primary settling tank, a grit removal channel, and two sludge drying beds. In 1984, the plant underwent an upgrade to add influent screw pumps, mechanical screens, an equalization basin to address storm flows, a grit removal tank, facilities to support secondary treatment, and new drying beds. The most recent upgrade occurred in 2005 with the addition of two secondary settling tanks with secondary pumps and a return activated sludge system. As a part of this most recent improvement, the influent screw pumps were also replaced with submersible centrifugal pumps. Other than the equipment and facilities added in 2005, the majority of the WWTP equipment has lived well beyond its expected life of twenty years.

Review of flow data indicated that the treatment plant has experienced an increase in high flows, which in turn has made operation difficult. The bacteria that oxidize the waste as a part of the treatment process can be lost by overflow if flows get too high. Equipment run times increase and risk operational failure. Bremen has indicated that in recent years that there has been a growing difficulty keeping up with the operational challenges associated with the aging infrastructure at the village's existing WWTP.

### **Project Description**

Improvements are considered critical for the continued operation of Bremen's WWTP. A high priority is the replacement of the mechanical screen that includes solids washing and bagging. This project will replace the influent screen to improve the preliminary screening process and extend the WWTP's useful life.

The construction footprint for this project will remain within the confines of the existing wastewater treatment plant, thereby minimizing effects on environmental resources. The contractor is responsible for best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation, minimize the creation of dust, and maintain local traffic during construction.

Maps of the project location are provided in the exhibits below.

## **Implementation**

### *Project Costs*

Bremen plans to borrow \$554,000 from the WPCLF. During the 20-year loan period, Bremen will save approximately \$89,992 by using WPCLF dollars at the small-community rate of 0.24%, compared to the market rate of 1.73%.

### *Local Economy*

The current Bremen residential sewer bill is approximately \$395/year. Projected residential sewer bills with the implementation of this and other associated wastewater projects are expected to increase to approximately \$512/year, or 0.9% of median household income (MHI) of Bremen, which is \$56,392.

By using WPCLF financing for this project, Bremen has minimized the economic impact on customers.

### *Project Schedule*

The anticipated loan award will occur in October 2021. Construction is expected to commence shortly after the funds have been awarded and completion of the project is expected by December 2021.

## **Public Participation**

Records of sewer rate increases are available on the Village of Bremen website along with an explanation of Ohio Water Development Authority loans. Contact information for the Village Administrator is also available for public questions or concerns. On this basis, and the limited scope of the project, Ohio EPA has determined that no additional public review and comment on the proposed project is necessary.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> (Under the “What’s New” tab, scroll to: “Documents Available for Review and Comment – WPCLF Documents for Review and Comment”) and will provide it upon request to interested parties. Information supporting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) is available from the project contact named below.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for an LER; namely, it is for the replacement of existing treatment works. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

- *Has no significant environmental effect, no effect on high value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation.*  
Construction for the project is limited to the previously disturbed footprint of the existing WWTP, which lacks important environmental features. Standard construction best management practices will be required to control dust, sediment runoff, noise, and maintain safety.
- *Is cost effective and not controversial.*  
The proposed project is cost effective as it involves seeking replacement to existing infrastructure as opposed to no action, which will potentially disrupt the plant’s functional

ability to meet wastewater treatment needs and will continue to accumulate high maintenance costs. Ohio EPA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project that will improve operational flexibility.

- *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.*

This project involves the replacement of equipment within the footprint of the existing treatment plant. The project will not increase wastewater discharges, nor serve a greater population. There will be no change in pollutant loading. Rather, the project proposes to construct a more efficient means of operating the treatment process.

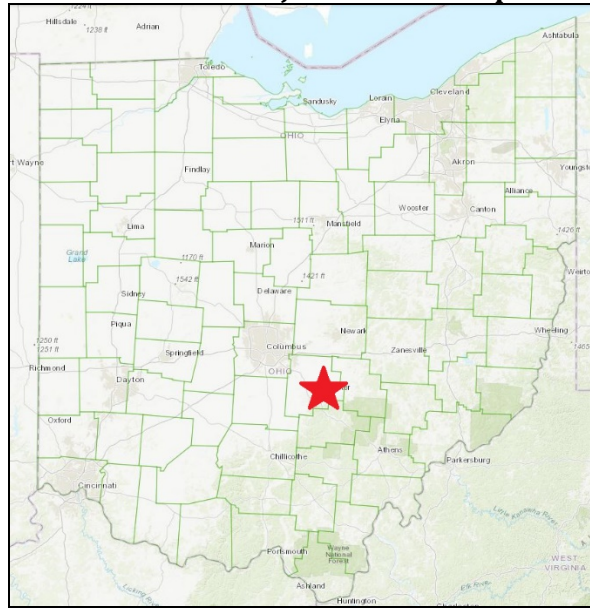
Based upon the available planning information for this project and the materials presented within this LER, Ohio EPA concludes that the proposed project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to any environmental features. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources such as surface waters, coastal zones, riparian areas, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species.

This project will improve the wastewater treatment plant's operational ability to maintain efficient wastewater treatment for the Village of Bremen.

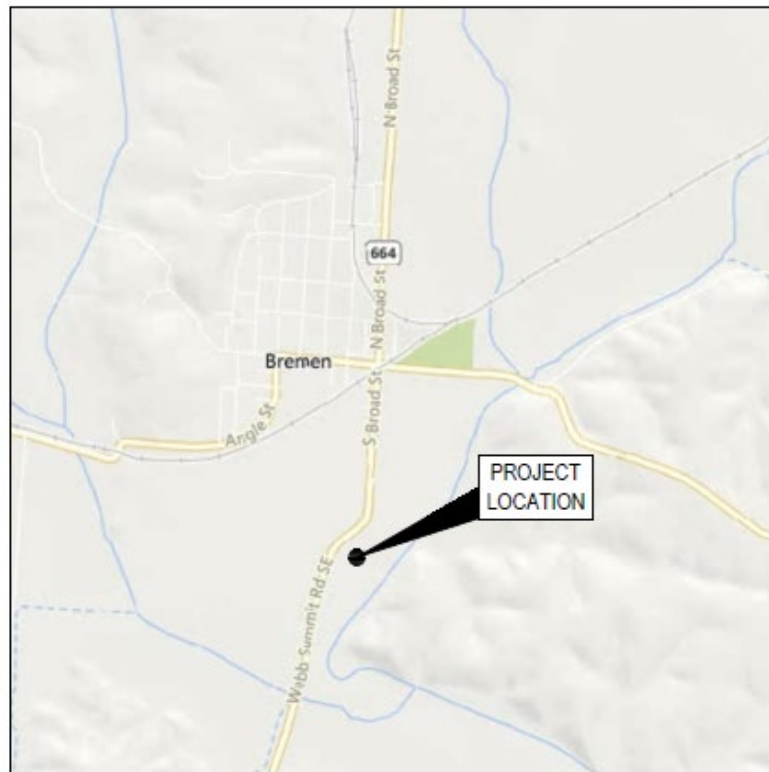
**Contact**

Kristin Parrish  
Ohio EPA-DEFA  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, OH 43216-1049  
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**Exhibit 1: Project location map**



**Exhibit 2: Project location map**



**VICINITY MAP**

NOT TO SCALE