June 3, 2019

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

City of Bucyrus – Crawford County

Southern and Hopley Avenues S3 Group 1
Southern and Hopley Avenues S3 Group 2
Southern and Hopley Avenues S3 Group 3
Mansfield and Whetstone Storm Improvements

Loan numbers: CS390206-0010, CS390206-0012, CS390206-0013 and CS390206-0011

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater project in Bucyrus 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, as described in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-150-05.

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, as described in OAC 3745-150-06. 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 (FONSI) 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,

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment
LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Projects: Bucyrus - Southern and Hopley Avenues S3 Group 1
Southern and Hopley Avenues S3 Group 2
Southern and Hopley Avenues S3 Group 3
Whetstone and Mansfield Streets Storm Improvements

Applicant: Jeff Wagner, Safety Service Director
City of Bucyrus
500 S. Sandusky Ave.
Bucyrus, OH 44820

Loan Nos: CS390206-0010, CS390206-0012, CS390206-0013 and CS390206-0011

Project Summary

The City of Bucyrus, Crawford County, applied for funding from Ohio EPA’s Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance the separation of combined storm and sanitary sewers and make improvements to storm water controls. The Southern and Hopley Group 1, 2 and 3 projects will install new storm and sanitary sewers for the purpose of separating combined sewers. The Whetstone and Mansfield Streets project will install a new storm sewer and a large gravel bed to address flooding issues experienced in this area during wet weather and to divert stormwater flow from the combined sewer system.

History & Existing Conditions

Bucyrus has a combined sewer system that was originally constructed in the 1930’s. Bucyrus’s original wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was constructed in 1939 and later upgraded in 1961, 1988 and in 2000. The plant currently serves approximately 12,500 customers and has an average daily design capacity of 3.4 million gallons per day (mgd) with a peak capacity of 6 mgd.

Combined sewers convey only sanitary waste during dry weather and carry sanitary waste combined with storm drainage during wet weather. When flows in combined sewers rise dramatically during and after rainfall, combined sewer overflow (CSO) structures release untreated sanitary waste combined with storm water to the Sandusky River. Such discharges are threats to human health and the environment. Due to these historical and ongoing CSO discharge events, Bucyrus is currently implementing requirements set forth by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Consent Decree.

Bucyrus has been working on sewer and stormwater system improvements for over a decade to address untreated overflows and flooding issues related to stormwater events. The current collection system’s capture rate is approximately 67%. Therefore, approximately 33% of the combined sewer flow is released before being treated at the WWTP.
**Project Description**

These projects will:

- Install new 12-inch diameter (") storm sewer lines and convert combined sewers to sanitary sewers (Group 1)
- Install new 8” sanitary sewer lines and convert combined sewers to storm sewers (Groups 2 and 3)
- Install a new 42” storm sewer and a 50 feet (’) long by 20’ wide and 2’ deep gravel bed on Whetstone St. which will divert flow from four existing catch basins that previously fed into the combined sewer system

By separating combined sewers, Bucyrus will decrease the amount of stormwater flowing into combined sewers during rain events and, therefore, reduce the number of CSO releases of untreated water into the Sandusky River. Additionally, the new stormwater sewer and gravel bed on Mansfield Street will provide additional capacity to control stormwater and alleviate flooding that usually occurs in this area following rain events.

Please see Figures below for maps of locations.

**Figure 1 – Groups 1, 2 and 3 combined sewer separation locations**
**Implementation**

Bucyrus will borrow $3,443,215 to finance the Group 1, 2 and 3 combined sewer separation projects from the WPCLF program at the disadvantaged community interest rate of 0%. During the 30-year loan period, Bucyrus will save approximately $1,856,981 by borrowing WPCLF dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 3.08%.

Bucyrus will borrow $385,300 from the WPCLF program for the Whetstone storm sewer installation project at the standard long-term interest rate of 1.78%. Bucyrus will save approximately $94,138 by borrowing WPCLF dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 3.08%.

The median household income (MHI) in Bucyrus is $36,230. The annual sewer bill is $226, which represents 0.6% of the MHI and is considered affordable.

Construction for the Group 2 project is expected to begin in June 2019 and be completed by February 2020. Group 1 construction is expected to begin in August 2019 and be completed by March 2020. The Whetstone project construction is planned from June 2019 through September 2019. Group 3 construction is not yet scheduled at this time.
Public Participation

The city passed legislation establishing a 3% annual sewer rate increase beginning in August 1, 2015 through August 1, 2021. These projects have been discussed at multiple Bucyrus city council, public works and finance committee meetings since 2017, which are open to the public. The projects were also discussed at two planning commission meetings, in mid-2018 and early 2019.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx WPCLF Documents for Review and Comment) and will provide it on request to interested parties.

Information supporting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) is available from the project contact named below.

Conclusion

The project work will primarily occur in roads, rights-of-way and residential lawns, therefore no sensitive environmental resources, such as streams, wetlands, state or federal threatened or endangered species, or historical properties, will be impacted. There are no stream crossings. If tree clearing is necessary, it will only be completed between October 1 and March 31. Standard construction best management practices will be used to address noise, dust, traffic disruption, and storm water runoff.

Ohio EPA conducts environmental review of all projects prior to approving WPCLF financing. Ohio EPA’s State Environmental Review Procedure contains a special set of project review procedures for projects which do not have the potential to “individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, State local or private actions or have significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment.” Such projects qualify for a Limited Environmental Review (LER). The proposed project involves installation of storm and sanitary sewers to separate combined sewers and installation of a storm sewer and gravel bed to alleviate flooding and flow into the combined sewer system and therefore meets the following criteria for an LER:

- **It has no significant environmental effect and will require not specific impact mitigation** as sensitive resources such as floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeological or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species are not present in the project area. If necessary, tree clearing for the project will occur only between October and March.

- **It does not require extensive specific impact mitigation**, as the proposed project will occur primarily along roads, rights of way, and residential lawns.

- **It has no effect on high value environmental resources** because the project work will primarily occur in roads and rights of way with no high value environmental features.

- **It is not a controversial action**, as there is no known opposition to the projects and the legislation to establish a 3% annual increase in local sewer rates was already passed and went into effect on August 1, 2015.
• **Is cost-effective**, as it will make necessary improvements to Bucyrus’ collection system to help ensure compliance with combined sewer overflow elimination requirements and will also alleviate local flooding.

• **It does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; and it 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** since the proposed project will actually reduce the amount of untreated overflows from CSO structures.

• **It does not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source; nor will it provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population**, since the project will not extend service to new customers and will actually reduce the amount of storm flow coming into the WWTP for treatment.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant adverse impacts. 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 (surface waters, coastal zones, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, threatened or endangered species, or state and federal wildlife areas). Implementation of the appropriate construction mitigation measures is required by the contract specifications. The project will benefit the residents of Bucyrus by reducing the number of untreated overflows into the Sandusky River and alleviate basement and yard flooding during rain events.

**Contact Information**

Lesley A. Jenkins  
Ohio EPA - DEFA  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, OH 43216-1049  
(614) 644-3667  
Lesley.Jenkins@epa.ohio.gov