



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

September 27, 2021

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Scioto Water, Inc. – Scioto County
Glades Road Storage Tank Replacement
Loan number: FS391407-0022**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water storage tank replacement project in Scioto County which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) 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 WSRLA 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,

Jonathan Bernstein

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Glades Road Storage Tank Replacement

Applicant: Scioto Water, Inc.
4707 Gallia Pike
Franklin Furnace, OH 45629

Loan Number: FS391407-0022



Figure 1. Scioto County

Project Summary

Scioto Water, Inc. (SWI), in Scioto County (Figure 1), has requested funding from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to finance the Glades Road Storage Tank Replacement project. This project is intended to correct system deficiencies by replacing the existing water storage tank with a new tank.

History & Existing Conditions

SWI is a non-profit corporation that provides water service to customers in Scioto, Pike, Jackson, Adams, and Lawrence counties. SWI's service area is comprised of three regions: the Rose Hill System, the West System, and the East System (Figure 2). This project consists of improvements that only affect the Rose Hill System.

The Rose Hill System encompasses areas across the northern portion of Scioto County, generally east from the Scioto River into southeastern portions of Pike County, southwestern Jackson County, and into the northwestern portion of Pike County. Also served are the communities of Wakefield, Stockdale, and a single service point to the Village of Oak Hill. Most connections in the Rose Hill System are with rural residents. While improvements have been made to the Rose Hill treatment and distribution system, a review of system deficiencies indicates that additional improvements are needed in this area.

The portion of the Rose Hill System that this project deals with is supplied water from the Scioto Regional Water District No. 1 water treatment plant (WTP), typically referred to as Water One, through a metered connection at the Morris Lane pump station. From here, water flows to the Graham Lane Main Pressure Reducing Valve (MPRV) which then supplies the Glades Road storage tank.

The Glades Road storage tank, located near the intersection of Glades Road and Smith White Road (Figure 3), provides water storage and supply to a portion of the Rose Hill System. The existing tank has structural integrity issues. Temporary repairs were made in 2020 to correct severe leaks. During these repairs, it was discovered that the tank's inlet piping had deteriorated, so a temporary line was installed into the side of the tank. These repairs were meant to be temporary and are not a long-term solution. The tank also lacks adequate storage for the service area, which leaves customers at risk of potential water outages.

The tank is supplied water from the Graham Lane MPRV with a mechanical altitude valve at the tank. This mechanical valve does not provide the necessary flow control for the tank. Because of this, the tank may not have adequate water turnover leading to long water age and water quality issues. The existing tank is uninsulated, which leaves the water in the tank prone to freezing in cold weather if enough fresh warm water does not enter the tank.

The many deficiencies plaguing the Glades Road storage tank highlight the necessity to implement a long-term solution to correct these issues.

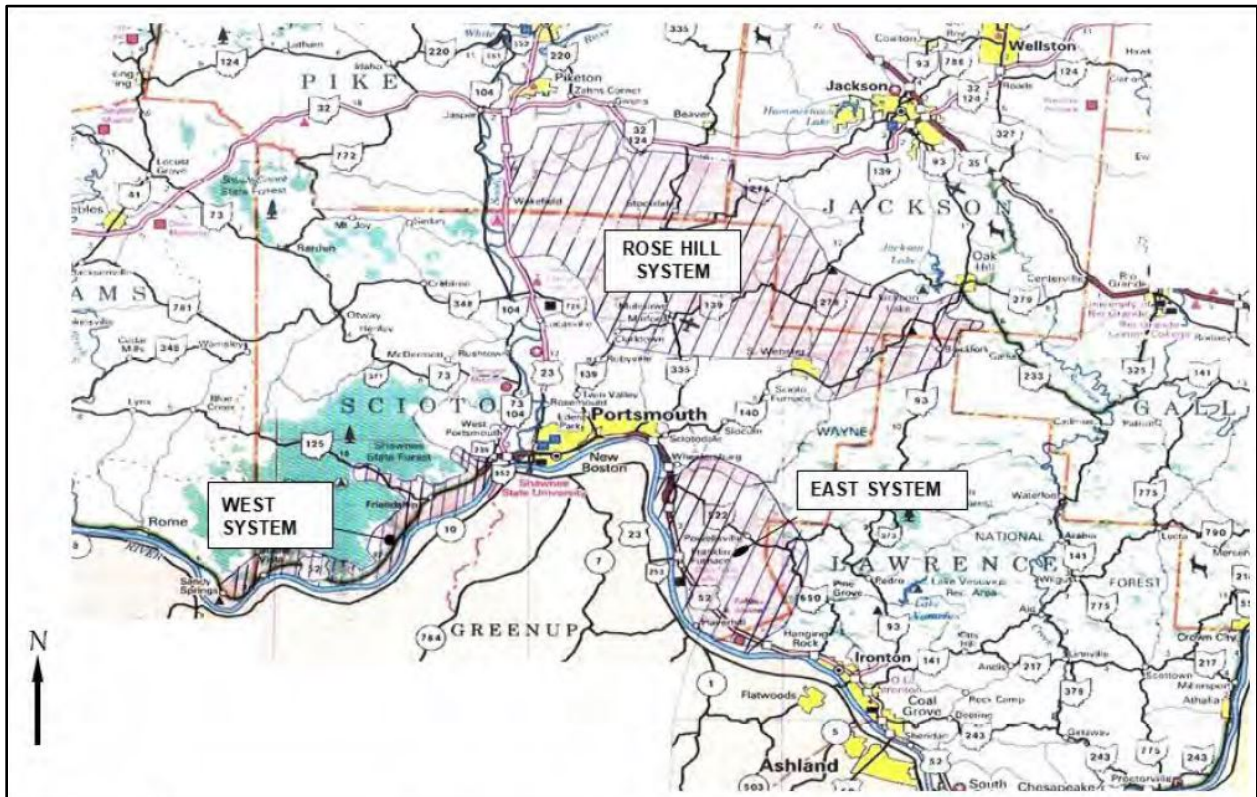


Figure 2. SWI's service area

Project Description

This project involves the removal of the existing 69,000-gallon (23,000 gallons usable storage) steel tank and construction of a new 310,000-gallon (102,000 gallons usable storage) glass-lined tank in the same location. This project also includes replacement of the mechanical altitude valve with an electronic valve, installation of a new water main to connect the new tank to the existing water main, installation of a new hydrant, replacement and modification to the existing chain link fence, and rehabilitation of the access driveway.

Several alternatives other than replacement were considered. Rehabilitation of the existing tank would extend its useful life, but it would not correct all major issues. Construction of a new tank at a different location would be more costly, require land acquisition, and possibly involve additional environmental costs for studies. Additionally, the site of the existing tank was determined to be the

highest point in the service area. Placing the new tank at a lower elevation would require a taller tank, increasing the cost even more. Construction of a new tank at the same location was determined to be the technically and financially preferable alternative.

Once installed, the new tank will address customer complaints and improve resident safety and water quality by increasing the storage capacity, increasing the pressure to homes that occasionally experience low pressures due to proximity to the existing tank, and improve water turnover while also decreasing the potential for freezing. Replacement of the existing tank will reduce the vulnerability issues associated with the structural condition of the current tank. The new tank will also improve worker safety with the addition of access manways, ladder fall safety climb improvements, and ventilation improvements.



Figure 3. Location of Glades Road storage tank (red pin)

Implementation

SWI proposes to borrow \$903,748 from the Ohio WSRLA to fund this project. SWI qualifies for the standard below-market interest rate of 0.57% (WSRLA loan interest rates are set monthly and may change for the requested October loan award). Assuming a 30-year loan, borrowing this amount in WSRLA dollars could save SWI approximately \$200,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate (1.87%).

The debt associated with this construction project will be recovered from user charges. The annual residential water bill is \$800. This is 2% of the median household income (MHI; Scioto County \$39,731) and higher than the Ohio average water bill of \$639.

SWI is a non-profit water association and makes rate adjustments as necessary to produce sufficient revenue to cover increases in costs. SWI reviews budget costs each year and may adjust rates to cover

expense changes based on future projects; however, user rates are not anticipated to increase because of this project.

Public Participation

SWI has discussed this project at scheduled meetings at their Franklin Furnace office that have been open to the public. This project has also been discussed at a township trustee meeting and a county commissioners meeting.

Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (<https://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa> under the “What’s New” tab in the “WSRLA Documents Available for Review and Comment” list) and will provide it upon request.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing water distribution system, which involves the replacement of an existing water storage tank. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high value environmental resources. Demolition of the existing storage tank, construction of the new tank, and all other construction activities will take place on SWI-owned property that is already cleared and maintained. This area primarily includes maintained lawn and lacks important environmental resources or critical habitat. No tree removal is required. Standard construction best management practices will minimize noise, dust, erosion, and traffic interruptions.

Is cost effective. While several alternatives were considered, no solution other than replacement of the existing tank with a new upgraded tank would effectively correct all system deficiencies without introducing additional unnecessary costs; therefore, construction of a new tank at the same location was determined to be the technically and financially preferable alternative.

Is not a controversial action. User rates are not anticipated to increase due to this project.

Replacement of the existing storage tank with a new upgraded tank is necessary to correct system deficiencies, address customer complaints, and improve resident safety and water quality.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, does not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, does not significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source, does not substantially increase the volume of discharge or 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. The increased storage capacity is intended to address the inadequate storage capacity and capability to provide water to the service area of the existing tank. This increase is not intended to extend service to new customers or provide additional capacity to serve customers in the future; thus, there will be no effect on the existing water withdrawal, treatment, discharge, source, or service capacity.

The planning activities for this 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 will minimize any short-term noise, dust, erosion, and traffic disruptions. Once completed, this project will result in improved system reliability and function, as well as improved quality and safety of water, to a large portion of SWI customers in the Rose Hill System.

Contact information

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