August 16, 2019

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Village of Middleport – Sewer Separation Phase 3
Loan number: CS390597-0016

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater collection improvement project in Middleport 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 (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,

[Signature]
Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment
LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Village of Middleport – Sewer Separation Phase 3

Applicant: Sandy Iannarelli, Mayor
659 Pearl Street
Middleport, OH 45760

Loan Number: CS390597-0016

Project Summary

The Village of Middleport, Meigs County, applied for funding from Ohio EPA’s Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance the separation of combined storm and sanitary sewers to reduce the frequency of combined sewer overflows (CSO) that release untreated sanitary waste into the Ohio River. The total estimated loan amount for the project is $2, 104,050.

History & Existing Conditions

Middleport owns and operates a wastewater collection and treatment system that serves approximately 58 residential and 30 commercial customers. In many parts of the collection system, Middleport has combined sewers (pipes that only carry sewage in dry weather but carry sewage mixed with storm water during wet weather). When flows rise dramatically during and after rainfall, combined sewer overflow (CSO) structures divert untreated sanitary sewage mixed with storm water to the Ohio River. Such discharges are threats to human health and the environment. Due to these historical and ongoing CSO events, Ohio EPA required Middleport to develop a Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP).

The LTCP set for a compliance schedule for reducing and eliminating CSOs. Middleport completed the first set of improvements in 2014. After receiving complaints about residential basement backups in 2015, the Village conducted a hydraulic analysis of their system. In the second phase of improvements in 2018, Middleport addressed acid mine drainage from mine waste outfalls in their collection system and separated combined sewers in the Main Street area to eliminate basement backups.

Project Description

This project will reduce sewer overflows by separating combined sanitary and storm sewers which will also reduce basement flooding. This project (see Figure 1) includes:

- Installation of 8-inch diameter sanitary sewers along Hudson, Walnut and Rutland Streets
- Installation of storm sewers ranging from 12 to 48-inch diameter
- Elimination of 4 combined sewer overflow points
- Abandonment of 158 linear feet of existing 18-inch and 24-inch diameter vitrified clap pipe combined sewers
Implementation

Under the WPCLF program, Middleport qualifies for principal forgiveness funding and will not need to repay the $2,104,050 loan.

Based on planned annual increases, Middleport’s projected sewer rates for 2021 are $519 per household. The projected rate is 2.1% of the median household income (MHI) of $24,263.

Construction for the Sewer Separation Phase 3 project is expected to begin in October 2019 and be completed by May 2021.
**Public Participation**

The Village Council has discussed the project on multiple occasions at meetings, which are open to the public. Door hangers will be used to notify affected residents prior to construction.

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). Specifically, the proposed project meet the following criteria:

- **It has no significant environmental effect** 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 project and it will not affect sewer rates.

- **Is cost-effective**, as it will make mandated improvements to Middleport’s collection system to help reduce combined sewer overflows and will also alleviate basement 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 reduce stormwater in the collection system.

• It will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population, since the project will not extend service to new customers and will reduce stormwater in the collection system, which contribute to increased flows.

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 Middleport by reducing stormwater in the collection system, reducing combined sewer overflows and eliminating basement flooding.

**Contact Information**

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