July 29, 2019

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Village of Sycamore - Wyandot County
7th Street and Pemberton Street Waterline Improvements
Loan number: FS390901-0002

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for the 7th Street and Pemberton Street waterline improvement project in Sycamore, Ohio 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, as described in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-150-05.

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, 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: Sycamore - 7th Street and Pemberton Street Waterline Improvements

Applicant: Charles Clark, Village Administrator
Village of Sycamore
132 North Sycamore Avenue
Sycamore, Ohio 44882

Loan Number: FS390901-0002

Project Summary

The Village of Sycamore has applied to the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) for a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) loan to replace failing waterline along two blocks of 7th Street and down Pemberton Street to the Sycamore Village Water Plant. The Village plans to borrow $216,000 from the WSRLA to replace the waterline.

The waterline improvements involve replacing 1,100 linear feet (LF) of old 8-inch cast iron watermain along 7th and Pemberton Streets, installing 2 manholes and 2 catch basins, and installing 5 new fire hydrants. Additionally, 350 LF of waterline laterals will be installed.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Sycamore is a small rural community located in northeastern Wyandot County. The population census as of 2012-2016 was 1,054, increased from 861 at the 2010 census. Sycamore has a public water system that maintains several miles of waterlines ranging from 2-inch to 8-inch and one 100,000-gallon storage tank. Sycamore obtains its water from wells along the east side of the village. The water treatment plant (WTP) is located on Pemberton street.

The current waterline along 7th street and Pemberton Street is an 8-inch cast iron waterline that has had three breaks in the past three years, and several other breaks before that. This waterline directly connects to the WTP on Pemberton Street and is one of the main distribution lines for the Village. There is a large plastics manufacturing factory at the crossroad of 7th and Pemberton street directly adjacent to the waterline which generates heavy truck traffic.

The Village of Sycamore will be reconstructing portions of 7th Street and Pemberton Street to address the heavy truck traffic. The waterline replacements will coincide with the village’s road reconstruction to prevent further repairs within the new pavement.
**Project Description**

The project will replace approximately 1,100 LF of aged and deteriorated cast iron watermain along two blocks of 7th Street and half a block of Pemberton street (See Figures 2 and 3). The watermain will be relocated to the north side of 7th street right-of-way so it is not under the constant 7th street heavy truck traffic.

The project will install:

- 1,100 LF of 8-inch PVC waterline and connection valves,
- 5 fire hydrants,
- 350 LF of ¾-inch water service line and connections/valves,
- 2 manholes,
- 2 catch basins, and
- Will abandon existing waterline, reconstruct curbs, restore road surface, sidewalks, and other areas disturbed by construction.

All work will occur under existing road surface, road shoulder, road rights-of-way, tree-lawn, or other adjacent areas lacking important environmental features.

![Figure 2. Location of the Village of Sycamore and project site](image-url)
**Project Cost and Implementation**

The Village of Sycamore will combine a $290,000 Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant with a loan of approximately $219,000 from the WSRLA at the small community interest rate of 0.99%, which may be adjusted pending loan award month. The total project cost is approximately $509,000. During the 30-year loan period, the Village of Sycamore will save approximately $71,062 by using WSRLA loan funds at the August 2019 interest rate of 0.99%, compared to the current market rate in August 2019 of 2.79%.

Debt for the project will be repaid by customers from monthly water rates and a water rate increase. Over the next three years, the water rates are scheduled to increase by 3% each year. The current average monthly residential user rate is $34.22 per month, based on average water usage, and will increase to $35.26 per month, or $423/year by 2021. This is 0.90% of the median household income of $46,266, which is generally considered affordable.

Assuming loan award in August 2019, construction should begin in September 2019, and be complete by December 2019.
**Public Notification**

The project is not controversial and will correct frequent watermain breakages that could compromise customers drinking water.

The residents of the project area have been sent a letter explaining what work will occur, and how access to their driveway will be affected throughout the project, how they will be notified, and when boil advisories will occur after the new waterline is in place.

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

The State Historic and Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed this project’s planning information and found it to be acceptable.

**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 functional replacement of and improvements to existing waterline. 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.* The proposed waterline replacement project will occur within previously disturbed paved streets, adjacent rights-of-way, and tree-lawn. Temporary traffic disruption will be managed by standard construction practices (flaggers, barricades, tape, signs, etc.). Contractors will use standard construction erosion and sediment controls for runoff of soil-laden water to storm sewers or streams.

*Is cost-effective*, as it targets replacement of a small section of chronically failing old waterline, rather than continually patching leaks.

*Is not a controversial action.* The Ohio EPA is unaware of any opposition to the waterline improvement project.

*Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and 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, or substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters.* The proposed project is limited to the replacement of equal size deteriorated waterline, and therefore will not have an effect on the Village’s water withdrawal, treatment, or distribution system, its discharge of pollutants, or capacity to serve additional customers.

*Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population.* The project will be replacing an equal diameter watermain in place of the existing 8” aged watermain.
Contact info

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