May 31, 2019

Public Notice: Issuance of a Reaffirmation of FNSI and Notice of Intent to Proceed
To all interested citizens, organizations, and government agencies
Trumbull County – Little Squaw Creek Interceptor Phase 5
CS390079-0033

On July 18, 2011, the Ohio EPA issued a final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the above referenced project as part of a multi-project review. The county’s Phase 5 project at that time was part of its Phase 4 project consisting of approximately 17,850 linear feet of sanitary sewers ranging in size from eight- to eighteen-inches in diameter. Subsequently, the county split Phase 4 into two phases for permit-to-install (PTI) application review and issuance reasons. Originally, the PTI for the entire Phase 4 project was issued on February 16, 2011 and reissued on February 4, 2014 to reflect the change in project scope. Ohio EPA issued a PTI for the Phase 5 project on January 31, 2019. From February through April 2019, Trumbull County submitted updated facilities planning information and addressed Ohio EPA’s questions concerning the project. The county has requested a construction loan award in June 2019 based on the bids it received on May 17, 2019 after advertising for bids on April 22, 2019.

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) environmental review rule (see Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-10) covering reaffirmations of previous environmental decisions five years old or older indicates that, "if a finding of no significant impact or other applicable environmental decision for an assistance proposal is five years old or older, prior to providing additional financial assistance or to disbursing additional funds for the assistance proposal, the director will reevaluate the environmental review and the director shall either:

(1) Issue a notice reaffirming the original environmental decision if the basis for the decision remains unchanged, or

(2) Perform a new environmental review as provided under this chapter if the basis for the decision has changed."

In this case, Ohio EPA has determined that the project circumstances support reaffirmation of the earlier environmental decision by issuing a public notice of Ohio EPA’s intent to proceed with the funding of the current Phase 5 project. On this basis, Ohio EPA has reevaluated and reaffirms the 2011 FNSI for the project now identified as the Little Squaw Creek Interceptor Phase 5 project.
Environmental impacts of the original design were reviewed and approved in the 2011 FNSI. The design changes that occurred after issuance of the original FNSI, including changes to address wetland impacts through horizontal directional drilling sanitary sewer installation and a frac-out contingency plan, present insignificant additional environmental impacts. No other new information has become available which would lead Ohio EPA to conclude that the project would result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, Ohio EPA is reaffirming the original Finding of No Significant Impact and issuing this "Notice of Intent to Proceed" with the intent of awarding a construction loan to Trumbull County for the Little Squaw Creek Interceptor Phase 5 project in June 2019 through this public notice.

Upon issuance of this determination, loan award may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions for the proposed project have changed significantly. More information is available from Kevin Hinkle at either (614) 644-3712 or kevin.hinkle@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Jerry Rouch, Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance
Office of Financial Assistance

cc: Daniel Polivka, President, Board of Trumbull County Commissioners
Gary Newbrough, P.E., Project Planning Director, Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers
Christopher Tolnar, P.E., Project Manager, GPD Group
Josh Goodridge, Wastewater Collection Superintendent, Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers
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