June 3, 2019

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Tuppers Plains Chester Water District – Meigs County
Water Treatment System Improvements Phase 10
Loan number: FS391356-0017

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a drinking water project in Tupper Plains Chester Waster District's system 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: Tuppers Plains Chester Water District - Water System Improvements Phase 10

Applicant: Don Poole, General Manager
Tuppers Plains Chester Water District
39561 Bar 30 Road
Reedsville, OH 45772

Loan Number: FS391356-0017

Project Summary

Tuppers Plains Chester Water District (TPCWD), Meigs County, applied for funding from Ohio EPA’s Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to finance the replacement of undersized water mains and installation of a new 250,000-gallon storage tank and booster station.

History & Existing Conditions

TPCWD was established in 1959 as a public water system and has experienced significant growth in water production over time to meet the increased demand of more and more customers in its expanding service area. TPCWD now provides drinking water to approximately 15,600 customers in Athens and Meigs counties and has approximately 600 miles of waterline in its distribution system. Many water mains in the system are now undersized for the population they serve due to the significant increase in customers since they were initially installed. Undersized mains and low hydraulic grade have created inadequate or low-pressure zones in the water distribution system, leading to inadequate flow and storage capacity for the population served.

Project Description

This project will:
- Replace existing 4 and 5 inch (”) undersized water mains with approximately 50,000 feet (’) of 8, 10 and 12” poly vinyl chloride (PVC) pipe in Chester and Salisbury Townships
- Install a new 250,000-gallon tank on Old Forest Road in Chester Township to replace the existing 150,000-gallon tank on SR 7, which will increase the hydraulic grade of the system and improve areas with low pressure
- Install a new booster station on Warehouse Road in Chester Township, which will provide adequate flow to the new storage tank

Please see Figures below for maps of project location.
Figure 1 – Proposed water main (yellow line) in Chester and Salisbury Townships, Meigs County

Figure 2 – Proposed water main and new 250,000-gallon elevated storage tank (blue box) on Old Forest Road
Implementation

The water system improvements will cost approximately $6,505,795 and TPCWD will borrow this amount from the WSRLA program with $3,255,481 of the principle balance being forgiven. The remaining balance of $3,280,313 will be borrowed at the disadvantaged community interest rate of
0%. During the 30-year loan period, TPCWD will save approximately $1,653,571 by borrowing WSRLA dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 2.9%.

The median household income (MHI) in Meigs County is $23,345. The average annual TPCWD water bill is $464, which is approximately 2% of the MHI. Water rates below 1.8% of the MHI are generally considered affordable.

Construction on this project is expected to commence in July 2019 and end in August 2020.

Public Participation
TPCWD has discussed this project at multiple monthly board meetings, which are open to the public, and posted information about the project and resulting water rate increase on their website.

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 paved roads and shoulders, a utility right-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. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and United States Fish and Wildlife Service were consulted on this project and concur that no threatened or endangered species are likely to be impacted. A phase 1 archaeological and historical survey was completed for the project area and the State Historical Preservation Office agreed with the determination that this project will not affect historic properties. All stream crossings will be accomplished through horizontal directional drilling (HDD). 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 WSRLA 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 replacement of undersized water main and elevated storage tank, and installation of a booster station and therefore meets the following criteria for an LER:

- **It has no significant environmental effect, does not require extensive specific impact mitigation, and has no effect on high value environmental resources**, 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 will not be impacted by the project. The proposed project will occur primarily along roads, rights-of-way, and residential lawns that have been previously disturbed. Tree clearing for the project will occur only between October and March. All
stream crossings will be accomplished through horizontal directional drilling (HDD).

- **It is not a controversial action**, as the rate increase is considered affordable and there is no known opposition to the project.

- **Is cost-effective**, as it will upgrade pertinent components of the water storage and distribution system that are no longer effectively maintaining adequate pressure in the water system to meet customers demand and, by using WSRLA low-interest financing and principle forgiveness, TPCWD has minimized the cost and the economic impact on customers and the local economy.

- **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 improves drinking water storage and distribution and has no impact on surface water.

- **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**, as the project improvements will not increase customer population and have no impact on source well or treatment plant production and only improve drinking water storage and distribution to existing customers.

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, state and federal wildlife areas). Implementation of the appropriate construction mitigation measures is required by the contract specifications. The project will benefit the TPCWD public water system by providing a more reliable drinking water supply to its customers with adequate storage capacity and pressure.

**Contact Information**

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