



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

May 5, 2022

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District – Ashland, Guernsey, and Richland Counties
Charles Mill Lake Park – Phase 2 Lift Station Generator (CS391256-0008)
Pleasant Hill Lake Park - Main Lift Station Generator (CS391256-0009)
Seneca Lake Marina Point Lift Station Generator (CS391256-0010)
Charles Mill Sites Lake Lift Station Generator (CS391256-0011)

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for four lift station generator projects in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District 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 projects, their 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 WPCLF program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed projects should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The projects' relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies them 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 projects have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Courtright

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Projects: Charles Mill Lake Park - Phase 2 Lift Station Generator
Pleasant Hill Lake Park - Main Lift Station Generator
Seneca Lake Marina Point Lift Station Generator
Charles Mill Sites Lake Lift Station Generator

Applicant: Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
1319 Third Street NW
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

Loan Numbers: CS391256-0008
CS391256-0009
CS391256-0010
CS391256-0011

Project Summary

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) is requesting four low-interest loans from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for a total of \$200,000 to install emergency generators at existing lift stations in several parks found in Ashland, Guernsey, and Richland counties.

History & Existing Conditions

The MWCD is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio organized in 1933 to develop and implement a plan to reduce the effects of flooding and conserve water in the Muskingum River Watershed. The Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, and Seneca lakes were all created as part of a dam and reservoir system constructed in the 1930's.

Charles Mill Lake Park – Phase 2

In 2018, MWCD installed a sewer collection system and new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Charles Mill Lake Park in Ashland County as a part of an upgrade to campground facilities. Power to the park and the sewer collection system is supplied by the Ohio Edison via overhead power lines and is susceptible to power outages during storm events.

Pleasant Hill Lake Park

In 2018, MWCD installed a sewer collection system in Pleasant Hill Lake Park in Richland County as part of an upgrade to campground facilities. The park sewage is then pumped to the Village of Perrysville for treatment. Power to the park and sewer collection system is supplied by the Firelands Electric Cooperative via overhead power lines and is susceptible to power outages during storm events.

Seneca Lake Marina Point

As part of a two-phase campground facilities renovation project finished in 2021 at the Seneca Lake Marina Point Campground in Guernsey County, MWCD extended sewer service to additional

campsites to provide full hookup service and built new restrooms. Power for the sewer service and lift station is supplied by the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative via overhead power lines and is susceptible to power outages during storm events.

Charles Mill Sites Lake

The Sites Lake Cottage Area is located at the north end of Charles Mill Lake in Richland County and includes 118 residential lots that are served by a sewer collection system. Power for the cottage area and lift station is supplied by Ohio Edison via overhead power lines that are susceptible to power outages during storm events.

Project Description

Each of these projects consists of adding an emergency backup generator to an existing lift station to ensure continued service during power outages.

Charles Mill Lake Park – Phase 2

The main lift station of the Charles Mill Lake Park sewer collection system pumps sewage from a large portion of the campground, including full hookup campsites and multiple restroom/shower facilities, to the gravity sewer that flows directly to the Charles Mill Lake Campground WWTP. The proposed backup generator will allow the lift station to operate even when the power is out, which will prevent untreated wastewater from being discharged into Charles Mill Lake within the campground area (see Figure 1).

Pleasant Hill Lake Park

The main lift station of the Pleasant Hill Lake Park sewer collection system has larger three-phase pumps that are difficult to power with portable generators. The proposed backup generator will allow the lift station to operate even when the power is out, which will prevent untreated wastewater from being discharged into Pleasant Hill Lake and impacting the health and safety of lake users (see Figure 2).

Seneca Lake Marina Point

The main lift station of the Seneca Lake Marina sewer collection system pumps sewage from the Seneca Lake Marina, including the Dockside Grill restaurant, and the entire Marina Point Campground to the Seneca Lake Chestnut Grove WWTP. The proposed backup generator will allow the lift station to operate even when the power is out, which will prevent untreated wastewater from being discharged into Seneca Lake adjacent to the highly used marina area (see Figure 3).

Charles Mill Sites Lake

The main lift station of the Sites Lake Cottage Area sewer collection system receives sewage from all 118 residential lots via gravity sewer. It then pumps all flow directly to the Sites Lake WWTP. The proposed backup generator will allow the lift station to operate even when the power is out, which will prevent untreated wastewater from being discharged into Charles Mill Lake near the cottage area (see Figure 4).

Implementation

Park customers are not charged directly for water/sewer usage at the Charles Mill Lake Park, Pleasant Hill Lake Park, and Seneca Marina Point Campground locations. The cost to provide these services is built into the campground rental rates, entrance fees, etc. At the Charles Mill Sites Lake location, the lessees of the cottages have a flat quarterly billing rate of \$105 for sewer service.

Project Costs:

Charles Mill Lake Park – Phase 2 Lift Station Generator: \$50,000
Pleasant Hill Lake Park – Main Lift Station Generator: \$50,000
Seneca Lake Marina Point Lift Station Generator: \$50,000
Charles Mill Sites Lake Lift Station Generator: \$50,000

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District is eligible to receive principal forgiveness funding for each generator replacement project (estimated at \$200,000).

Construction will start in July 2022 and end in approximately nine months.

Public Participation

All four projects have been discussed at two public Board of Directors meetings. Meeting minutes are also posted on the MWCD website once the minutes are approved at the meeting.

The first public meeting was July 23, 2021, at which the purpose and estimated costs were discussed, and the Board authorized application of financial assistance through the WPCLF program. The other meeting was March 18, 2022, at which time each project's purpose and updated costs were discussed, and the Board authorized public bidding of the projects.

Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about these projects. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements> and will provide it on request to interested parties.

Conclusion

The proposed projects meet the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, they involve actions within existing public wastewater treatment systems, which involve the functional replacement of and improvements to existing mechanical equipment. Furthermore, the projects meet the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed projects:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources because no environmentally significant resources are present in the project disturbance area. The generators will be installed at existing lift stations on previously disturbed ground.

Is cost effective because there is no alternative to adding emergency backup generators that are necessary to keeping the existing lift stations operational in all conditions.

Is not a controversial action because these projects will not raise rates and the public has not voiced opposition to any of the projects.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, 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, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population because this project will

serve an existing population with no expansion of service. No additional withdrawal or discharge to surface waters will occur.

Contact information

Anna Johnson
Ohio EPA – DEFA – OFA
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43215

Anna.Johnson@epa.ohio.gov



Figure 1. Charles Mill Lake Park – Phase 2



Figure 2. Pleasant Hill Lake Park



Figure 3. Seneca Lake Marina Point



Figure 4. Charles Mill Sites Lake