



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

May 2, 2022

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Northwestern Water and Sewer District – Wood County
Ford Road Pump Station Rehabilitation
Loan number: CS391432-0160**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater conveyance project in Wood County 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.

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. 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,

Kathleen Courtright

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Ford Road Pump Station Rehabilitation

Applicant: Northwestern Water and Sewer District
12560 Middleton Pike
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Loan Number: CS391432-0160

Project Summary

The Northwestern Water and Sewer District (NWWSD) has applied for funding from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the Ford Road Pump Station Rehabilitation project. The proposed project includes the construction of a new submersible pump station to replace an aged and functionally obsolete pump station that is beyond its useful life. The estimated loan amount for the project is \$7,600,382, with construction scheduled to begin in summer 2022 and to be completed in eight months.

History & Existing Conditions

NWWSD, chartered under Section 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code, was organized in 1994 to assume the water and sewer operations of the Wood County Sanitary Engineer. The existing Ford Road pump station is located near the intersection of White Road and Ford Road in Perrysburg Township, Ohio (see Figure 1). The Ford Road pump station was constructed in 1973 as a part of expansion to the Wood County sanitary collection system to provide sewage collection services to unsewered portions of the county and to improve the water quality in the Grassy Creek Watershed. This pump station is a conventional flooded suction steel can-style pumping station. The wet well is a cast-in-place concrete structure.

In 2004, the pump station was rehabilitated with new pumps and electrical switch gear. In 2008, the pump replacement was coupled with the replacement of the force main to increase the pumping capacity from 1,000 gallons per minute (GPM) to 3,000 GPM.

Ford Road pump station collects sanitary sewage from sanitary sewer (SS) areas SS-300 and SS-400 and conveys this wastewater via a 16-inch force main running along the CSX Railroad right-of-way to NWWSD's SS-300 60-inch interceptor located on West Boundary Street. The 60-inch interceptor sewer conveys wastewater to the City of Perrysburg wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

The existing Ford Road pump station is functionally obsolete and beyond its useful life, with extensive worn equipment, undersized pumping capacity, limited space for repairs and maintenance, and a limited footprint that precludes expansion of the pump station at its current location. During extreme wet-weather events, the Ford Road pump station has become overwhelmed by infiltration and inflow

(I/I)¹ exceeding the capacity of the pump station. To prevent basement flooding, NWWSD implements bypass pumping of untreated wastewater into Grassy Creek at the Bates Road pump station, which is located upstream of the Ford Road pump station.

Project Description

The Ford Road Pump Station Rehabilitation project (see Figure 2) generally consists of the following:

- Construction of a new submersible style pumping station, with a cast-in-place concrete wet well, and new masonry control building
- Abandonment of the existing Ford Road pump station below-grade features
- Installation of approximately 150 linear feet (LF) of 48-inch sanitary sewer
- Installation of approximately 150 LF of 12-inch sanitary sewer
- Installation of approximately 264 LF of 12-inch storm sewer
- Installation of approximately 340 LF of 10-inch storm sewer
- Installation of approximately 275 LF of 16-inch sanitary force main
- Construction of sanitary manholes and storm sewer manholes

Implementation

The total estimated loan amount for the project is \$7,600,382, and NWWSD proposes to borrow the entire cost for the project from Ohio's WPCLF. NWWSD will recover debt associated with the project with revenue generated by monthly sewer fees. NWWSD qualifies for the WPCLF standard long-term interest rate, which for May 2022 is 1.56 percent, over 20 years (WPCLF loan interest rates are set monthly, and the rate may change for a later loan award). The 2022 monthly residential sewer rate in the project service area is \$142.46 (\$1,710 annually), based on an average monthly usage of 1,037 cubic feet of water. This is 2.74 percent of the median household income of \$62,390, as compared to the state average of 1.3 percent.

Borrowing \$7,600,382 at 1.56 percent will save NWWSD approximately \$1,110,000 over the life of the loan compared to borrowing the same amount at the current market rate of 2.81 percent. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2022 and be completed in eight months.

Public Participation

NWWSD has a long history of working with the general public and local public officials when proposed projects are to be located in their community. This project has been discussed at NWWSD board meetings, detailed on NWWSD's website, and advertised for bids. A public notice announcing the availability of this Limited Environmental Review will be posted on NWWSD and Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance websites. Thus, there have been adequate opportunities for information dissemination and public participation.

¹ Infiltration is the ground water that seeps into sanitary sewers through cracks, offset joints, and other flaws in the pipe. Inflow is surface runoff that enters sanitary sewers through directly connected downspouts, area drains, etc.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection system, which involves the functional replacement of existing mechanical equipment, namely a wastewater pumping station. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no adverse environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation, as there are no known sensitive environmental resources within the proposed project area. The proposed project activities include construction in an area that has experienced extensive prior excavation and filling activities. There will be no significant adverse effects as a result of project implementation, or the need for any additional mitigation measures beyond typical erosion control and construction best management practices.

Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources, as construction will take place within an area that has experienced extensive prior excavation and filling activities and where no high-value resources are present.

Is cost effective, as the proposed action was evaluated as the most cost-effective alternative, and improves wastewater conveyance within the existing system.

Is not a controversial action, as there is no known opposition to the proposed project and the cost of the project is not overly burdensome to ratepayers.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters, since the replacement of the pump station will improve wastewater conveyance and reduce wet-weather overflows within existing wastewater collection facilities.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population, since the project is not related to serving new growth or increasing capacity at the wastewater treatment facilities.

In summary, 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 water, ground water, air quality, floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, federal or state-designated wild, scenic or recreational rivers, federal or state-designated wildlife areas, or threatened or endangered species). Typical construction impacts, such as noise, dust, and exhaust fumes, will be short-term and addressed through the use of standard construction best management practices.

The proposed project is a cost-effective way to replace a functionally obsolete pump station that is beyond its useful life. Once implemented, the project will replace aged infrastructure, helping NWWSD comply with its NPDES permit, reducing wet-weather overflows of untreated wastewater, and helping to protect surface waters, public health, and the environment. Also, by using WPCLF low-interest financing, NWWSD has minimized the project cost.

Contact information

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Figure 1: General project area



Figure 2: Existing and proposed pump station locations