



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
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January 30, 2023

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Nevada – Wyandot County
Water Tower and Water Lines
Loan number: FS390650-0003**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water tower and water line replacement project in Nevada 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.

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, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Water Tower and Water Lines

Applicant: Village of Nevada
P.O. Box 430
100 Grant Street
Nevada, Ohio 44849

Loan Number: FS390650-0003



Figure 1. Wyandot County

Project Summary

The Village of Nevada has requested funding from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Fund (WSRLA) to finance the Water Tower and Water Lines project. This project is intended to complete the process of regionalizing Nevada's drinking water system with the neighboring City of Bucyrus.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Nevada is located in Wyandot County (Figure 1). The village currently owns its own water treatment plant (WTP) and distribution system, both of which are in need of costly repairs. The WTP and its adjacent well was built in 1937 and the village's water tower was built in 1935. The water tower has already had several repairs completed, and it is suspected that there might be holes in it. Additionally, a number of the water lines in town are estimated to be 60-80 years old and composed of cast iron and asbestos cement. They have experienced four breaks within the last two years, with more frequent breaks anticipated.

In 2019, Nevada began discussions with the nearby City of Bucyrus to potentially purchase water from them rather than take on the cost of all of the necessary repairs to their WTP and distribution system. Bucyrus and Nevada came to an agreement to regionalize the two systems in March of 2021. Nevada will purchase water from Bucyrus at a standard in-town rate and Nevada will retain ownership, operation, and maintenance of their existing water distribution system.

Project Description

For Nevada's portion of this regionalization project, the village will be installing a new 50,000-gallon multi-column water tower, which will increase the available water pressure. They will also be decommissioning and demolishing the existing water tower and WTP, and the existing well will be capped and abandoned. Lastly, approximately 1,650 linear feet of existing cast iron and asbestos-cement waterline will be replaced with 6-inch PVC. The project location is shown below in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Project location

Implementation

The Village of Nevada proposes to borrow approximately \$293,000 in Ohio WSRLA funding for this project. As a part of their financing package, the village has received \$800,000 of state infrastructure grant dollars and \$500,000 from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). Nevada qualifies for a 0% hardship interest rate; assuming a 30-year loan, borrowing this amount of WSRLA funding could save Nevada approximately \$221,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 4.14%.

The average annual water bill for residents served by Nevada is \$500. This is 1.1% of the median household income (MHI: \$46,458) and compares favorably to the Ohio average annual water bill, \$639.

Water rates will be raised as a result of this project. Village council is currently discussing a 5 to 7% increase for next year, on top of the existing 3% yearly raise to cover operational costs. Construction is scheduled to begin March 2023 and to be completed in ten months.

Public Participation

Throughout the course of determining the scope of this project, the Village of Nevada and the City of Bucyrus have held multiple public meetings. In addition to these, Nevada council members have performed an income survey for potential Community Development Block Grant funding. As a part of the income survey, the council members went door-to-door to gather the needed income information and explain the project and its associated rate increases to residents.

Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about the project. 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 project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing water treatment system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to the existing water tower, water treatment plant, and water mains. 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 because construction will be taking place entirely within suburban areas that have experienced previous excavation. There are no high-value resources in this developed area.

Is cost effective and is not a controversial action because regionalization was the most cost-effective option for Nevada to continue to provide clean water to its residents. While water rates will be raised in order to cover the cost of this project, the rate increases have been clearly communicated to village residents. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, 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 because this project is the regionalization of two drinking water systems, there will be no substantial increase in withdrawals and no new discharges.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population because this project consists of regionalizing existing water service, so service will not be extended in any way nor provide additional capacity.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated.

Contact information

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