



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

April 29, 2022

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Jackson Center – Shelby County
WWTP RAS/WAS Pump Station and Sludge Conveyor Improvements
Loan number: CS390472-0006**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment project in Shelby 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 WPCLF 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: WWTP RAS/WAS Pump Station and Sludge Conveyor Improvements

Applicant: Village of Jackson Center
122 East Pike Street
P.O. Box 819
Jackson Center, Ohio 45334

Loan Number: CS390472-0006

Project Summary

The Village of Jackson Center has requested financial assistance from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the WWTP RAS/WAS Pump Station and Sludge Conveyor Improvements project. Work for this facilities improvement project will include the replacement of aged grit removal and sludge equipment to help Jackson Center's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) remain compliant with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits, and to address excessive maintenance issues within the plant. The estimated loan amount is \$1,009,593. Debt for the project will be repaid from monthly sewer rates and the Note Retirement Fund. The project is scheduled to begin in summer 2022 and be completed in 12 months.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Jackson Center, located in Shelby County (see Figure 1), operates a publicly owned sanitary sewer collection system and WWTP. The WWTP is an oxidation ditch activated-sludge process wastewater treatment system, and the WWTP's effluent loading is based on average daily flow of 0.370 million gallons per day (MGD). The primary treatment at the WWTP consists of screening and grit removal. Secondary treatment consists of two oxidation ditch reactors and two secondary clarifiers. Effluent is disinfected using ultraviolet (UV) disinfection before being discharged to Jackson Center Creek. Biosolids are processed through aerobic digestion in holding tanks and dewatered utilizing a belt filter press before final disposal in a landfill.

The WWTP's grit removal system is currently non-functional. The grit pump and classifiers are beyond their useful life, non-functional, and non-serviceable. The existing screw conveyor for dried biosolids is beyond its useful life and causes maintenance issues.

Project Description

The proposed project (see Figure 2) includes the following actions:

- Installation of a self-priming, suction lift return-activated sludge (RAS)/waste-activated sludge (WAS) pump station
- Replacement of the grit pump and grit classifier
- Replacement of the screw conveyor for the belt filter press

- Demolition of the existing plant lift station
- Installation of new handrails and grating
- Miscellaneous piping, site work, and electrical work

Implementation

The total estimated loan amount for the project is \$1,009,593, and Jackson Center proposes to borrow the entire cost for the project from Ohio's WPCLF. Jackson Center will recover debt associated with the project with revenue generated by monthly sewer fees and the Note Retirement Fund. Jackson Center qualifies for the WPCLF small-community long-term interest rate, which for May 2022 is 1.16 percent (WPCLF loan interest rates are set monthly, and the rate may change for a later loan award). The 2022 monthly residential sewer rate in Jackson Center is \$64.75 (\$777 annually), based on an average monthly usage of 1,037 cubic feet of water. This is 1.28 percent of the median household income of \$60,781, as compared to the state average of 1.3 percent.

Borrowing \$1,009,593 at 1.16 percent will save Jackson Center approximately \$446,000 for the 30-year loan compared to borrowing the same amount at the current market rate of 2.96 percent. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2022 and be completed in 12 months.

Public Participation

This project has been discussed in multiple Jackson Center village council meetings, which were advertised in local media, open to the public, and allowed for review and comment, and has also been discussed in local media, with no negative feedback noted. The Limited Environmental Review will also be posted on Jackson Center and Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance websites. Thus, there have been adequate opportunities for information dissemination and public participation.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater treatment system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing mechanical equipment. 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 improvements within the boundaries of an existing WWTP that has experienced extensive prior excavation. 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. Therefore, the project will not have any long-term negative impacts on any historical resources.

Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources, as construction will take place within the boundaries of an existing WWTP that has experienced extensive prior excavation 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 treatment 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 project only involves improvements to and replacement of infrastructure to improve the existing wastewater treatment facility.

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 address necessary improvements to aged equipment withing the existing WWTP. Once implemented, the project will improve aged infrastructure, addressing excessive maintenance issues within the plant, and allowing Jackson Center's WWTP to remain compliant with its NPDES permit limits, helping to protect surface waters, public health, and the environment. Also, by using WPCLF low-interest financing, Jackson Center has minimized the project cost.

Contact information

R. Eric Schultz
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

e-mail: eric.schultz@epa.ohio.gov



Figure 1: General project area



Figure 2: Jackson Center WWTP and project area