



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

May 18, 2022

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Lebanon - Warren County
Glosser Road Pump Station & Equalization Improvements
Loan number: CS390510-0002**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a pump station and equalization basin improvements project in Lebanon 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: Glosser Road Pump Station & Equalization Improvements

Applicant: City of Lebanon
50 South Broadway,
Lebanon, OH 45036

Loan Number: CS390510-0002

Project Summary

The City of Lebanon has requested \$9,433,687 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to construct two new pump stations to improve pumping capacity: one at the existing Glosser Road pump station site, and a new booster station along Columbia Road. The existing equalization basin will be modified to increase storage capacity as well. This will maximize total storm water equalization capacity to reduce collection system overflows and bypasses, where untreated wastewater overflows into waterways during wet weather events. The new pump stations will be installed adjacent to Turtle Creek and a small unnamed tributary to Turtle Creek. The project footprint will be within developed areas and will not impact important environmental features.

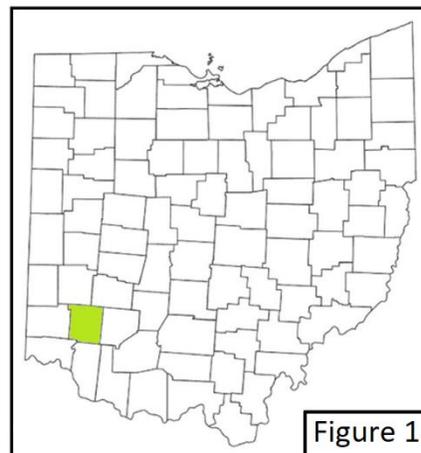


Figure 1

History & Existing Conditions

The City of Lebanon is located in Warren County with a population of 20,584 people (Figure 1). The city owns and operates the Glosser Road pump station and equalization basin facility at the site of the city's original wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Approximately 80 percent of the city's wastewater flows arrive at this pump station and are pumped through 20-inch force main to the current WWTP, which is approximately 4.7 miles to the south and discharges treated wastewater to the Little Miami River. The WWTP is rated for an average daily flow of six million gallons per day (MGD) and a peak daily flow of 12 MGD.

The pump station consists of two small dry weather pumps and two large wet weather pumps. The Glosser Road pump station is over 60 years old and during high-flow events, the city is only able to operate the two large pumps; the two small pumps are not able to be used due to hydraulic reasons. In 2014, one wet weather pump was replaced, and the other replaced in 2021 (Figure 2).

The 3.885-million-gallon equalization basin has a diameter of 210 feet, a side wall height of 19.5 feet, and was constructed in 2002. The basin was designed with a working side wall depth of 15 feet, but this was never achieved, and the basin cannot be filled above 12.79 feet without triggering a bypass overflow event.

The Glosser Road facility has a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) structure that can release untreated wastewater to Turtle Creek during wet weather events when the pump station is over pumping capacity and cannot convey the storm flows to the WWTP. Between November 2017 and May 2019 there were four overflow events. As a result, the Ohio EPA issued a Notice of Violation to the city on September 26, 2019, requiring the city to develop a plan to eliminate such discharges and to develop a schedule for making the required improvements to maintain the city's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The WWTP has the necessary capacity to treat wastewater flows that are usually bypassed at the Glosser Road pump station.

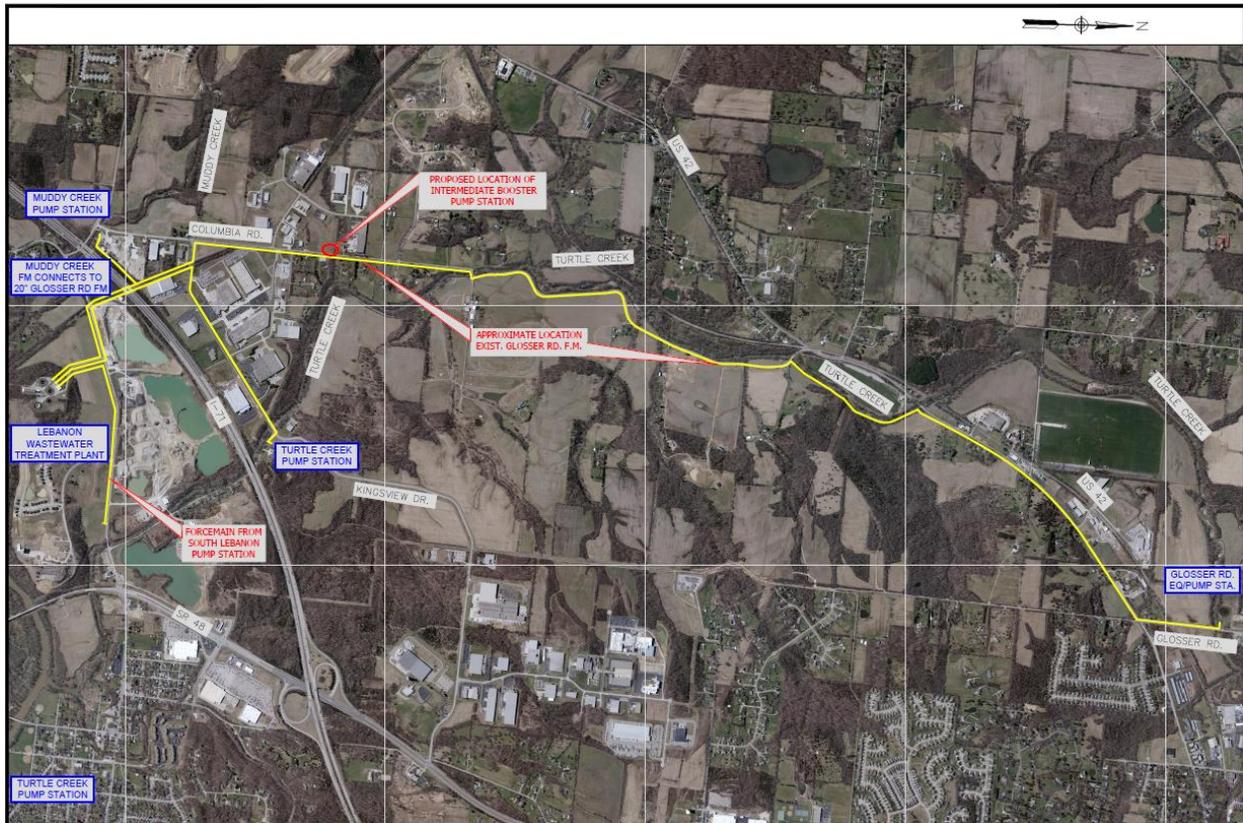


Figure 2. Map of existing WWTP and pump stations labelled in blue, and proposed Columbia Road pump station marked in red along force main labelled in yellow

Project Description

The project will replace the existing Glosser Road pump station with a new one (Figure 3). The new pump station will be built at the site of the existing Glosser Road pump station and equalization basin, and the old pump station removed. The new pump station will have a pumping capacity of 10 MGD and will house three 3,500-gallons per minute (GPM) pumps and three dry weather pumps. This arrangement allows for the reuse of the existing six-year-old pump and existing one-year-old pump. They will be modified from the current dry well to a wet well configuration. A third identical large wet weather pump will be added.

The existing 210-foot diameter equalization basin will be modified to increase the usable depth from 12.79 feet to 17.5 feet, significantly increasing storm surge flow capture. Additional improvements

at the Glosser Road site include replacement of the existing outfall, a new electrical and control room, a new bar screen, new influent manhole, standby diesel generator to provide backup power, and demolishing the abandoned facilities. Work will not occur in Turtle Creek, and erosion control silt fencing will be in place to prevent soil erosion runoff entering the streams.

A second booster pump station will be added at 3465 Columbia Road, where there is an existing force main (Figure 4). Dry weather and initial wet-weather flows will bypass this booster pump station. Higher rates of wet-weather flows will be routed through the booster pump station. Two existing wet-weather pumps from the Glosser Road pump station will be used here. Electrical components and a backup diesel generator are part of these site improvements as well.



Figure 3. Map of Glosser Road facility showing existing equalization basin, pump station, and proposed replacement pump station in red



Figure 4. Map of proposed booster pump station at 3465 Columbia Road

Implementation

Lebanon plans to borrow \$9,433,687 from the WPCLF at the 1.56% standard community interest rate, and is eligible for a \$50,000 grant for providing back-up generator power as part of this project. Lebanon is also eligible to receive Ohio water and wastewater infrastructure grant funding in the amount of \$4,000,000. During the 20-year loan period, Lebanon will save approximately \$5,380,000 by using WPCLF funding and state infrastructure grants, compared to the market interest rate, currently at 2.81%. Interest rates are set monthly and may change for the requested May loan award.

Sewer rate increases of 3% will be implemented in 2023 to repay the loan and allow continued maintenance and improvement of these services. The most recent rate increase was 3% in 2021. According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey, the estimated median household income (MHI) for a resident of Lebanon is \$66,754. The average yearly sewer bill will amount to \$386 after

the sewer rate increases in 2023, which is 0.58% of the MHI. This compares favorably to the Ohio average sewer bill of \$639.

Anticipating loan award in May 2022, construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2023.

Public Participation

This project has been discussed in public council meetings and an article published in the local newspaper. The most recent sewer rate ordinances as of March 2022 are available on Lebanon's website under the water and sewer rates section. When the city received Ohio water and wastewater infrastructure grant funding, Governor DeWine personally visited Lebanon for the grant award to show support of the project and the city's wastewater infrastructure improvement efforts.

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 distribute it to interested parties at request. Information supporting the LER is available from the project contact named below.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection 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 significant environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation, and have no effect on high-value environmental resources, as the planning activities for the project identified no potential adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources such as surface waters, floodplains, wetlands, state or federally designated wildlife areas, state or federally-designated wild, scenic or recreational rivers, riparian areas, prime or unique agricultural lands, threatened or endangered species, or aquifer recharge zones, archaeological or historically significant sites because they are not present in the project area, and best management practices will be followed during construction. Silt fencing will be installed around excavations to prevent sediment runoff into streams, and no in-water work will occur at the Glosser Road outfall replacement site. Trees will be cut seasonally to avoid impacting threatened and endangered bat species that use trees for roosting and foraging during warm seasons. A Phase 1 Archaeological survey was performed at the proposed Columbia Road pump station site and no significant archaeological or historic resources were discovered, and therefore will not impact these resources.

Is cost effective and not a controversial action, because the Glosser Road pump station is past its useful life, and the improvements will eliminate SSOs. Alternatives evaluated determined the above-described option as the most financially cost-effective and efficient engineering solution to improve flow equalization and eliminate SSOs. This will result in local water quality improvements. By obtaining grant funding and low-interest rate WPCLF funding, Lebanon has reduced the loan cost substantially to minimize sewer bill rate increases for its customers specifically for this project.

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 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, as the treatment capacity of the wastewater plant will not change. The improvements will only increase equalization and storage capacity by capturing more wastewater during storm surges. The existing outfall at Glosser Road will be replaced with a similar sized pipe and rip-rap, and will not change volume or concentration of pollutants discharged to Turtle Creek. No new service connections will be made.

Contact information

Megan Osika
Ohio EPA-DEFA
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049

Megan.osika@epa.ohio.gov