



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Craig W. Butler, Director

August 24, 2015

**RE-AFFIRMATION OF FONSI AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROCEED**

To all interested citizens, organizations, and government agencies

Village of Swanton - Swanton Clark Street Sewer Separation  
CS390900-0009

The attached Re-affirmation of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Proceed describes the next in a series of sewer separation projects planned over a span of several years for which Ohio EPA in 2006 issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Because that FONSI is more than five years old, the Ohio EPA reviewed the project again and determined no significant changes have been proposed. Therefore, Ohio EPA is re-affirming the original FONSI, and issuing this "Notice of Intent to Proceed" with the funding of this project. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the Re-affirmation document.

Upon issuance of this determination, loan award may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions for the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Rouch".

*for* Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance - OFA

Attachment

**RE-AFFIRMATION OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROCEED**

**A. Project Identification**

Name: Swanton Clark Street Sewer Separation

WPCLF# CS390900-0009

Address: Steven Geise, Village Administrator  
Village of Swanton  
219 Chestnut Street  
Swanton, Ohio 43558

**B. Proposed Project**

1. Summary

In 2006, Ohio EPA issued a final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for a series of projects in the Village of Swanton to separate combined sewers and eliminate combined sewer overflows (CSO) to Ai Creek, a tributary of Swan Creek and the Maumee River.

Swanton's combined sewer separation proposal was originally described in the 2001 *Village of Swanton Sanitary and Combined Sewer Study* as twelve phases or sub-projects, each consisting generally of constructing new storm sewers and allowing the existing pipes to become dedicated sanitary sewers. The new storm sewers would have inlets for surface drainage and connections to existing subsurface drainage conduits (sump pumps, foundation drains, etc.). That document was updated in 2007 and the list of projects became part of the village's Long-Term Control Plan for the elimination of CSOs approved by Ohio EPA in 2011. In 2012 Ohio EPA re-affirmed the 2006 FNSI for the Lincoln, Woodland, Church & Crestwood Combined Sewer Separation project.

The environmental review procedures for the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) require Ohio EPA to re-evaluate a project and its circumstances if its environmental decision is more than five years old, and either: 1) re-affirm the environmental decision by issuing a public notice of Ohio EPA's intent to proceed with the funding of the project, 2) supplement the environmental decision by updating the information and preparing a revised environmental assessment, which may then serve as a basis for a new FNSI, 3) issue a Limited Environmental Review, or 4) re-assess the environmental decision by withdrawing it and giving notice for the preparation of a Supplemental Study. Because Swanton used WPCLF financing for the combined

sewer separation projects and has requested WPCLF assistance for the current project, Ohio EPA has again re-evaluated the 2006 FNSI. This document, for the presently proposed Clark Street Sewer Separation project, re-affirms the 2006 FNSI.

## 2. Project History

Swanton's community-wide sewer separation was planned as twelve projects. Several have been completed, the most recent in 2012. Swanton's current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, effective until April 30, 2017, includes a compliance schedule requiring the implementation of the Long-Term Control Plan, including sewer separation.

## 3. Public Participation / Agency Review

Swanton discussed the original projects in Council meetings in 2006, and the *Toledo Blade* published two related articles in 2006. The Ohio EPA Environmental Assessment for the first Swanton sewer separation project in the WPCLF program resulted in no public comments during its 30-day comment period. Ohio EPA is unaware of any opposition to the projects, all of which differ only in their respective locations in the village.

The following agencies reviewed and commented on the project's planning information:

State Historic Preservation Office  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

None of the agencies opposes the project.

## 4. Implementation

The Clark Street Sewer Separation project will involve the separation of combined sewers and the installation of storm sewers on Clark St. between Chestnut and E. Garfield; Chestnut St. between Main and Clark; Franklin Avenue between Chestnut and East Garfield; Pennsylvania Ave. between E. St. Clair and E. Garfield; Bassett St. between Main and Clark and E. St. Clair between Main and Clark (Figure 1).

The project costs, as well as the operation and maintenance costs for these improvements, will be paid through the storm water utility charge system and the existing sewer user charge system. Residents have been charged a monthly storm sewer fee of \$3.00 per residence since 2006. In addition, the average homeowner's annual wastewater bill is \$717, for a total current annual sanitary and storm sewer bill of \$753. This amount is 1.40% of the local median household income (MHI), \$53,729 (American Community Survey). Considering the low proportion of MHI represented by

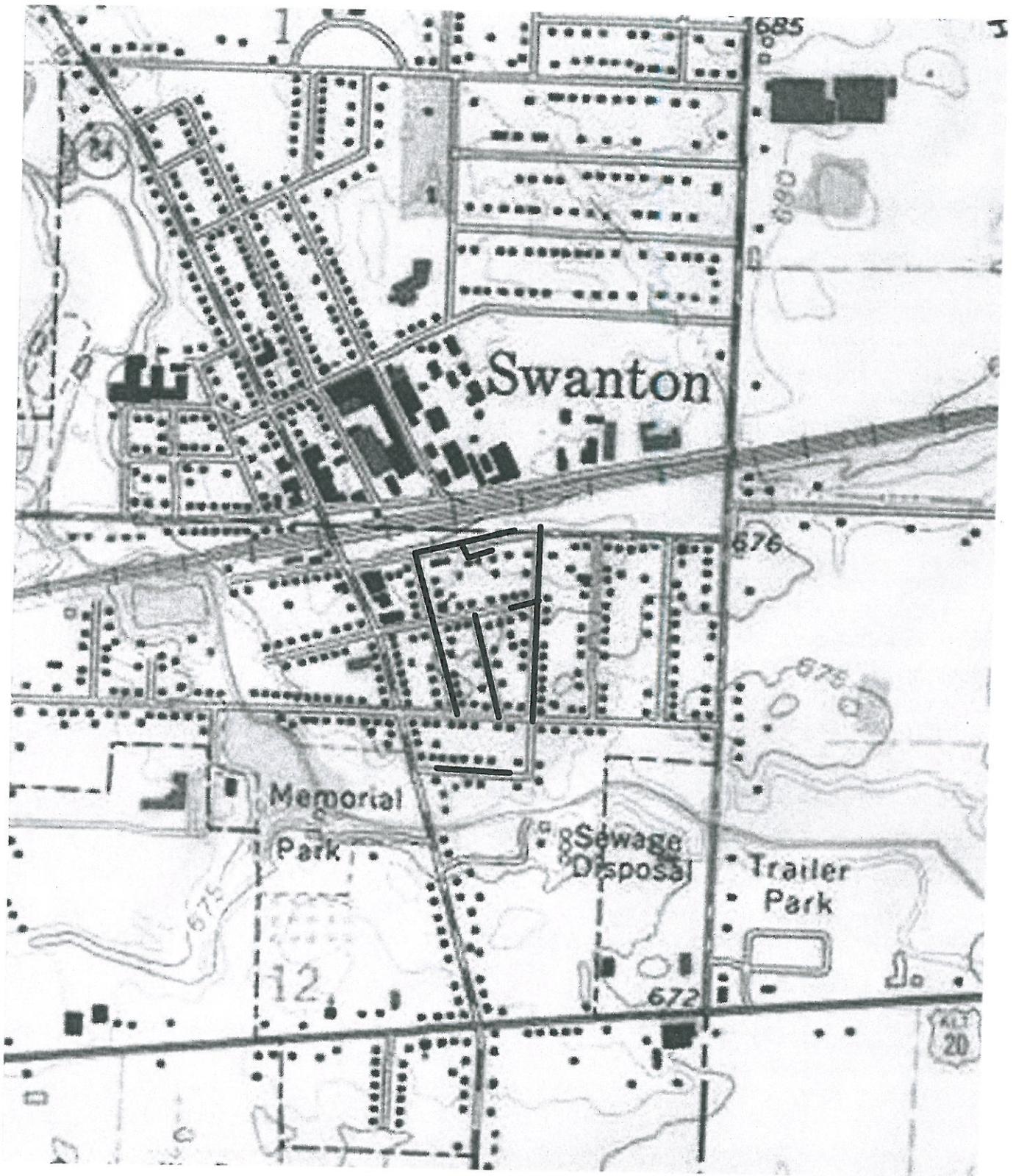


Figure 1 – Project Location

sanitary and storm sewer bills in Swanton and the favorable funding package described below, this project is considered affordable.

For the Clark Street Sewer Separation project, Swanton will borrow approximately \$365,000 of the total estimated project cost (\$740,000) from the WPCLF at the Small Community interest rate (currently 1.79%; rates are set monthly and may change before loan award). The remaining funding is from the Ohio Public Works Commission (\$175,000, 0% loan) and village reserves (approximately \$200,000). By using the WPCLF financing, Swanton will save approximately \$127,000 over the 20-year life of the loan compared to the market rate (3.54%).

Assuming loan award in September 2015, construction will begin the next month and be completed by May 2016.

### **C. Conclusion**

No significant change has occurred in the proposal since the environmental impacts of the Swanton combined sewer elimination projects were reviewed and approved in the 2006 FNSI by Ohio EPA. The projects will be built in previously-disturbed areas and will have minimal or no impact on environmental resources. Implementation of these remaining projects (the complete list of which is in the 2006 FNSI; the current list of the remaining projects is in the Long-Term Control Plan), including the Clark Street Sewer Separation project, will accomplish the primary purpose of eliminating combined sewer overflows to Ai Creek.

No other new information has become available that would lead Ohio EPA to believe that the projects will result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, Ohio EPA is re-affirming the original Finding of No Significant Impact and issuing this "Notice of Intent to Proceed" to fund this project.

#### **For more information, contact:**

Dan Halterman  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance - OFA  
Ohio EPA  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Telephone: (614) 644-3658  
E-mail: [daniel.halterman@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:daniel.halterman@epa.ohio.gov)