



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

September 17, 2015

Notice of issuance of a Limited Environmental Review (LER) and final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) to all interested citizens, organizations and government agencies

**City of Bowling Green, Wood County
Water Treatment Reservoir Pump Station
WSRLA Loan No.: FS390184-0023**

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the above-referenced project and finds that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor a Supplemental Study (SS) is required to complete the environmental review of the project. Instead, the proposed project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER). These criteria are summarized below in this document and in the attached LER.

The Drinking Water Assistance Fund (DWAFF) Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process for project approval. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action in its project planning review and approval process. A subsequent review by this Agency has found that the proposed action does not require the preparation of an EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed project is limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria, an LER is warranted. Specifically, the proposed project constitutes an action in the community with an existing public water system, which involves minor upgrades and/or minor expansion of existing water treatment and distribution systems including, but not limited to, functional replacement of existing mechanical equipment or structures and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. As such, the City of Bowling Green's proposed project constitutes activities meeting these criteria.

Furthermore, the proposed project:

- has no potential for associated significant environmental impacts;
- will not require extensive impact mitigation unique to the assistance proposal;
- will have no effect on high value environmental resources;
- is cost-effective and is not the subject of significant public interest;
- will not create a new or relocate and existing discharge of wastewater to surface or ground waters or cause pollution of surface or ground waters;

- will not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from either surface or ground waters or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source;
- 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.

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is included as part of the LER. The LER presents additional information on the proposed project such as its costs and the basis for the Agency's decision. Further information may be obtained by calling or writing the contact person named at the end of the LER.

The LER was completed for this proposed project as it will not individually, cumulatively over time or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local or private actions have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment. Consequently, a FONSI can be issued now for this proposed project.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jerome Rouch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome Rouch, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and
Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Name: City of Bowling Green
Water Treatment Reservoir Pump Station

Address: City of Bowling Green
Attn: Brian O'Connell, Director of Utilities
304 North Church Street
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

WSRLA Loan No.: FS390184-0023

Existing Need

The City of Bowling Green operates a potable water treatment plant (WTP) with the Maumee River as its water supply. Water from the Maumee is pumped into an above-ground reservoir, which is used to supply the WTP with flow. The WTP has a summer capacity rating of 11.01 million gallons per day (MGD) and a winter capacity rating of 9.42 MGD. The plant utilizes both conventional treatment processes and an Integrated Membrane System (IMS) consisting of microfiltration and nanofiltration. The City has experienced reduced reservoir water flow capacity due to limitation of existing raw water pumping system and zebra mussel infestation into the intake piping causing partial flow blockage. An expansion of the reservoir pumping system is required to ensure adequate capacity to the IMS and during circumstances when the reservoir level is low to be able to pump water to the conventional treatment system. The existing reservoir pump station pumps are in need of rehabilitation and this pump station is not able to pump from the reservoir to the IMS treatment process. This condition limits the plant treatment capabilities when the reservoir level is low.

Additionally, the existing reservoir pump station contains two 7.63 MGD pumps to feed water to the conventional treatment portion of the plant; however, one of the pumps is currently out of service. With one pump out of service, the water plant cannot meet the 9.42 MGD winter capacity rating or the 11.01 MGD summer capacity rating of the total plant. A proposed reservoir intake system and pumping station will be added to increase the reliability of the pumping capacity of the reservoir pumping system to 11.01 MGD with one pump out of service.

Project Description

Additional pumping capacity is required to meet the WTP's capacity. Two possible locations for a new pump station were considered: the first was at the bottom of the reservoir embankment; the second was at the top of the reservoir. The first alternative was eliminated due to concerns with a flooded suction line to the pump building and possible maintenance issues in the future.

The second and preferred option was to construct a new pump station on the top bank of the reservoir, which will be of similar design to the existing pump station. This will allow for a wet well to be installed below the building and will provide similar maintenance as the existing pump station. The wet well will be connected to the reservoir with three separate inlets at different elevations in the reservoir. The existing pump station will be dedicated to feeding raw water to the conventional treatment process, in accordance with the original design. The new pump station will contain four new pumps dedicated to feeding raw water to the microfiltration/reverse osmosis (MFRO) process and a fifth new pump dedicated to feeding raw water to the conventional treatment process. This project will provide redundancy and reliability to meet plant capacity with one pump out of service.

A figure at the end of this document shows where the proposed pump station will be constructed.

Estimated Project Costs

The total construction cost of this project is estimated to be \$3,925,000.00. Of this, \$3,600,000.00 is expected to be a loan administered through Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA), which provides financial assistance for the planning, design and construction of improvements to community water systems and non-profit, non-community public water systems. Other funding sources include a \$325,000 grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).

Harmful Algal Blooms

In program year (PY) 2015, targeted funding was directed towards the planning, design and construction of infrastructure improvements at surface water treatment plants to address Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)¹ issues. This is the second year that this targeted funding will be available; \$50 million was available in PY 2015 and an additional \$50 million will be made available in PY 2016. These funds will be made available at a zero-percent interest rate from the WSRLA. The Bowling Green Water Treatment Reservoir Pump Station project meets the qualifications as a HAB project and, therefore, the zero-percent interest rate discount.

The WSRLA loan is expected to be administered at a zero-percent HAB interest rate for a term of five or more years, but not greater than 20 years. At the time this Limited Environmental Review was written, the market interest rate was 3.45 percent (September 2015). Through the targeted funding program, the City of Bowling Green will save approximately \$1,413,481.00 by using the WSRLA.

On May 13, 2013, Bowling Green's Board of Public Utilities adopted a water rate plan that included annual adjustments beginning in January 1, 2014, through January 1, 2016. Currently, residents of Bowling Green are charged \$0.01565 per cubic foot of water used and a \$1.60 per customer charge per month. Assuming an average user rate of 1,037 cubic feet per month, the residential cost per year for water usage is \$194.74.

¹ A harmful algal bloom (HAB) is an algal bloom that causes negative impacts to other organisms via production of natural toxins, mechanical damage to other organisms, or by other means. HABs are often associated with large-scale marine mortality events and have been associated with various types of shellfish poisonings.

According to the 2007 to 2011 American Community Survey, the City of Bowling Green, with a population of 30,153, has a median household income (MHI) is \$34,961. This represents an allocation of approximately 0.56 percent of the MHI for water usage service, which is fairly low (state average is 1.1 percent). On this basis, Ohio EPA has determined that the capital costs of this proposed project appear to be affordable for an average residential customer of Bowling Green's water system. As a result, no adverse economic impacts on local residential users of Bowling Green's water system are anticipated.

Proposed Project Schedule

The City of Bowling Green expects the construction of the proposed project will begin in August 2013 and will take 12 months to complete. It is expected that the initial loan repayment to the WSRLA program will be on January 1, 2015.

Public Participation

The City of Bowling Green has discussed this project at its regular board of public utilities and City Council meetings, both of which are open to the public. Several public meetings have also been held specifically related to this project at which various aspects regarding its development were discussed. To date, neither the City nor Ohio EPA are aware of any public controversy associated with this project.

Ohio EPA will issue a copy of its Limited Environmental Review decision and Finding of No Significant Impact to interested parties. Supporting documentation for the decision is available for public inspection, upon request, from the City of Bowling Green and Ohio EPA's central office. Furthermore, the LER may be found under the WSRLA tab on Ohio EPA's website at <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/Home.aspx>.

Interagency Coordination

The proposed project has been reviewed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Because of the nature of the project, coordination with Ohio Historic Preservation Office and United States Fish and Wildlife Service was not required although, reviews of those resources were completed by Ohio EPA to determine that will be no effect on either properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places or threatened and endangered species.

Conclusion

Because the proposed project meets certain minimum conditions and will not either individually, cumulatively over time or in conjunction with other federal, state or private actions have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human or natural environment, a Limited Environmental Review is warranted. More specifically, these conditions cover actions in communities with an existing public water system where minor upgrades and/or minor expansion of existing water treatment and

distribution systems are proposed, including, but not limited to, minor rehabilitation of existing facilities; functional replacement of existing mechanical equipment or structures; and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. In addition, the proposed project also meets the following criteria for a LER:

- *It will have no significant adverse environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation* because the construction footprint is relatively small and the entire project is located in a previously-disturbed area that is part of an existing reservoir;
- *It will have no adverse effect on high value environmental resources* because no such resources are present within the project area;
- *It is cost-effective* because the new pump station will functionally replace an existing one and will be better suited to meet the recommended standards of Ohio EPA;
- *It is not a controversial action* because the construction of the reservoir pump station will not result in direct, adverse impacts on the environment or on the average residential water user of Bowling Green, since the City does not anticipate that the proposed project will result in any water rate increases;
- *It will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, nor 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* because it only involves the replacement of a pump station;
- *It 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* because there will be no point source discharges and any non-point source discharges during construction will be minimized with sediment and erosion control best management practices; and
- *It will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population* because the project is primarily intended to functionally replace an existing pump station.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources including surface waters, floodplains, wetlands, forested or aquatic habitat, endangered species, cultural resources, ground water, air quality or the local economy. It will not result in secondary (development-related) impacts such as the conversion of farmland to more intensive uses. The effects of noise, dust and odors are minimal and will be well controlled. Implementation of appropriate construction mitigation measures is required by the contract specifications and construction activity will be limited to the existing, previously-disturbed reservoir. The project will benefit the City by providing improved water service that is safe and reliable for residents and businesses.

For further information, please contact

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Figure 2: Approximate location of proposed pump station