



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

July 25, 2014

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS,  
AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Village of Columbus Grove  
Putnam County  
Phase 3 Construction CSO Project  
Loan No. CS390275-0003

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comments on the Ohio EPA's preliminary decision that a Supplemental Environmental Study is not required to implement the recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of the sewer separation project submitted by the municipality mentioned above.

How were environmental issues considered?

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the facility plan and associated documents, as well as through the facility plan review process and during site inspections. The Agency's preliminary Environmental Assessment found that the project does not require the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Study.

Why is a Supplemental Environmental Study not required?

Our environmental review concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the facilities plan or have been reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Assessment.

How do I get more information?

A map depicting the location of the project is included as part of the Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the action and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person listed in the back of the Environmental Assessment.

How do I submit comments?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at the letterhead address. We will not take any action on this facilities plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

What happens next?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The municipality will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this agency.

Please bring any information that you feel should be considered to our attention. We appreciate your interest in the environmental review process.

Sincerely,



*for*

Alauddin A. Alauddin, Chief  
Division of Environmental &  
Financial Assistance

AAA/JB/jb

Attachment

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM**  
**For**  
**Village of Columbus Grove**  
**Combined Sewer System Long-Term Control Plan, Phase III**  
**WPCLF Loan Number CS390275-0009**

**Applicant: The Honorable Kenneth Wright, Mayor**  
**Village of Columbus Grove**  
**113 East Sycamore Street**  
**Columbus Grove, OH 45830**

## **Project Summary**

Columbus Grove is applying for approximately \$4,700,000 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund to separate combined sewers (i.e., those that transport both sanitary sewage and storm water) in the west side of the village. The proposed work is Phase III of a village-wide sewer separation program that was recommended in the village's 2006 Combined Sewer System Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP).

Columbus Grove owns and operates a trickling filter wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and a partially combined sewer system that includes two pump stations and four combined sewer overflow (CSO) points. The WWTP and CSOs discharge to Plum Creek, a tributary of the Auglaize River. This system has had problems with CSO activation caused by insufficient hydraulic capacity in the sewers and at the WWTP. Columbus Grove developed the LTCP to recommend action to abate the CSO discharges, and produced a 2010 Wastewater Treatment Study to address deficiencies at the WWTP. The LTCP recommended sewer separation throughout the village by installing new sanitary sewers and converting the combined sewers to storm flow conveyance. The details of the analyses for the sewers and WWTP are available in the LTCP and the Wastewater Treatment Study, and are also summarized in Ohio EPA's Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) that was issued for the overall project on August 20, 2010. A facility plan approval covering Phases I and II was published on May 2, 2011. These documents are available from the village or from Ohio EPA.

To date, the WWTP improvements have been made and all of Columbus Grove's sewers have been separated, except for those that are west of Veterans Drive between Sycamore Street and Delphos Road. The separation of these sewers is the third and final phase of the system improvements described above.

This EA Addendum covers Phase III, since Phase III will have rate impacts that were not within the scope of the 2010 EA. A brief review of the LTCP and the Wastewater Treatment Study confirms that their findings are accurately reflected in the 2010 EA. Ohio EPA affirms the finding of the 2010 EA that total sewer separation as recommended in the LTCP and addenda is cost-effective and environmentally sound.

## **Project Description**

The proposed Phase III improvements include the installation of 18,200 feet of 8-inch diameter sanitary sewer in Delphos Road, Taft Street, Taylor Street, Gove Street, Birch Street, Alna Drive, West Street, Pine Street, Deblanche Street, Glancy Street, Oakwood Drive, Ashwood Drive, Sycamore Street, Wayne Street and Church Street. All service laterals will be replaced in the right-of-way. Approximately 5,000 feet of storm sewer will be replaced. Construction involves two crossings of Plum Creek. These will be completed by jack and bore, to help avoid stream disturbance.

## **Implementation**

The estimated total project cost is \$5,236,700. The proposed funding sources include the Ohio Public Works Commission (\$500,000) and \$4,736,700 from Ohio EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF). Columbus Grove qualifies for the WPCLF hardship interest rate of 0.0 percent. Borrowing at that rate will save the village approximately \$2,700,000 over the life of the WPCLF loan compared to the current market rate of 4.82 percent.

Debt repayment will come from the quarterly sewer fees. The sewer fee includes a debt retirement fee of \$26.00, which was enacted several years ago to support a fund for the retirement of debt associated with LTCP projects. It also includes volume charges of \$4.00 minimum, \$11.70 per 1,000 gallons up to 6,000 gallons and \$10.26 per 1,000 gallons up to 37,500 gallons usage. The volume charge is raised 3.0 percent annually. The debt retirement fee has not been raised since it was enacted, and there are no immediate plans to raise it. Based on an average monthly usage of 4,500 gallons, the quarterly sewer fee is \$177, or \$708 annually. This is 1.7 percent of the annual median household income of \$42,409 in Columbus Grove.

## **Environmental and Economic Impacts**

The work areas for Phase III are similar to those of Phases I and II. All of the proposed work for Phase III other than the disposal of excess excavated material from the trenches (spoil) will be done in the paved or graveled road rights-of-way where there has been extensive prior disturbance for the installation of roads and underground utilities. Jacking and boring techniques will be used to avoid direct impacts to Plum Creek at stream crossing sites. No surface water, wetlands, sole-source aquifers, 100-year floodplains, endangered species or their critical aquatic and forested habitat, state or federally designated wildlife areas, or scenic or recreational rivers are present in the pipe installation areas. The spoil material from Phase III will be deposited in the same area as that from Phases I and II at a location near Plum Creek. As was done in Phases I and II, proper erosion control measures will be used to prevent sedimentation of the creek. Based on the foregoing, no further environmental review is necessary beyond that completed for Phases I and II. Noise, odors and dust will be controlled and local air quality will be protected in the same manner (e.g., silencers and emissions controls, limited construction times, street sweeping, dust settling measures) as before. Phase III is not designed to induce population growth and building development, and thus will not result in adverse secondary (development-related) environmental impacts, such as the conversion of farmland to more intensive uses. Based on this, the findings of the 2010 EA/Final FNSI and Facility Plan Approval are affirmed with regard to the above-mentioned attributes.

## Public and Governmental Oversight

Ohio EPA has commented on this project. The Long-Term Control Plan and sewer separation received public discussion during the review of Phases I and II, including several articles in the *Lima News* and at public meetings regarding the project. No known controversy arose during or since the review of Phases I and II.

## Conclusion

Phase III as designed will have no adverse effect on surface water, floodplains, ground water, wetlands, endangered species, critical aquatic and forested habitat, state and federally designated wildlife areas, scenic or recreational rivers, farmland, cultural properties, air quality, or the local economy. Traffic will be managed for the least possible disruption; while noise, dust and odors will be controlled using construction best management practices. The current rates from which debt for the LTCP projects will be recovered are considered affordable

Along with the other phases of the LTCP implementation, Phase III will yield significant public health benefits from the reduced discharge of untreated sewage from CSOs into local waterways and other parts of the environment.

For more information, please contact:

Judy Buckinger, Project Reviewer  
Ohio EPA  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
50 West Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Telephone: (614)-644-3662

Email: [Judith.buckinger@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Judith.buckinger@epa.ohio.gov)

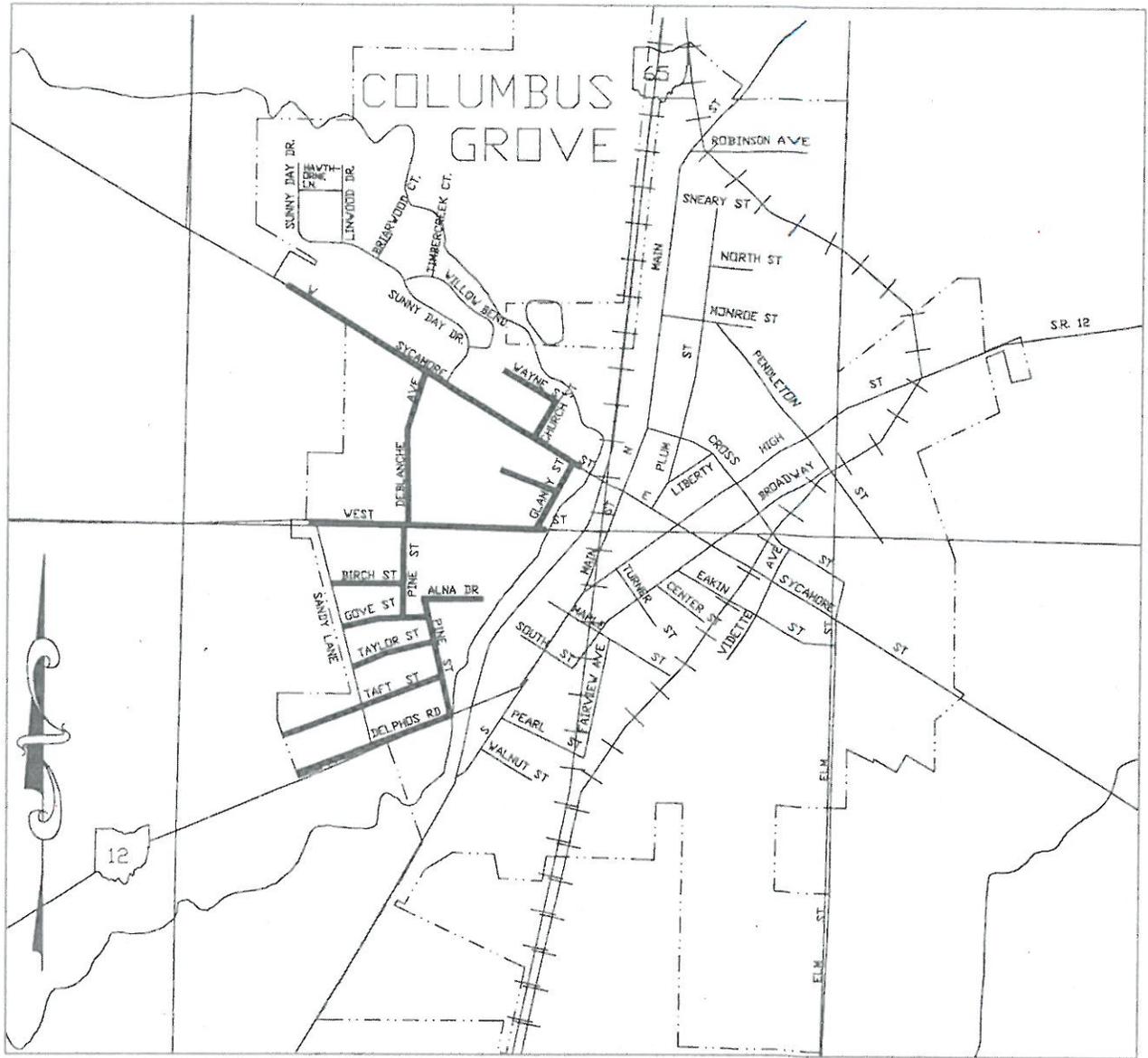


Figure showing Phase III work areas