



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 Malta  
Morgan County  
Combined Sewer Separation Phase II  
Loan No. CS390561-0006

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 Malta  
Combined Sewer Separation Phase 2  
WPCLF Loan Number CS390561-0006**

**Applicant: The Honorable Gregory Hill, Mayor  
Village of Malta  
449 Main Street  
Malta, OH 43758**

## Project Summary

Malta, which has a sewer service population of 696, owns and operates its wastewater collection system and conveys its sewage to the Village of McConnellsville for treatment. Originally, Malta's collection system was combined, which means that it carried both sanitary and storm flows in the same pipes. The sewers discharged excess wet-weather flows to the Muskingum River through 10 combined sewer overflows (CSO). Subsequently, Malta separated combined sewers in part of the village. Later, in accordance with its discharge<sup>1</sup> permit, Malta developed a CSO Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) that called for the phased separation of the remaining combined sewers.

In 2008, Ohio EPA approved the LTCP and, in 2011, Malta implemented Phase I sewer separation in the center of the village. Phase I was completed in August, 2012. It resulted in the closure or reduction of flows from CSOs 2 through 8. An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) were published on February 22, 2011 for the LTCP project overall and Phase I, specifically. The EA supported the finding of the LTCP that sewer separation is a cost-effective solution to Malta's CSO problems and concluded that, with proper construction impact mitigation, separation can be carried out without significant long-term adverse impacts to surface waters, ground waters, wetlands, state or federal wildlife areas, endangered species, critical habitat, farmland, air quality, cultural properties, floodplains, traffic, and the local economy. Noise, dust and odors will be controlled with construction best management practices. Ohio EPA issued a Final FNSI (3/25/2011) and Facility Plan Approval (7/29/2011) for Phase I, after which Ohio EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) awarded Malta a \$618,000 loan to continue with project implementation.

Malta now proposes to construct Phase II of the LTCP, which will reduce or eliminate flows from CSOs 9 and 10. Phase II will involve sewer separation in 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Echo Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and the south end of Main Street. As funding becomes available, Malta will pursue Phase III of the LTCP, after which all CSOs will be eliminated. The attached figure shows the phases.

This Addendum affirms the finding of the 2011 EA that the LTCP is cost-effective. Phase II involves work areas and construction methods that are similar to those of Phase I. Construction impact mitigation and traffic management similar to those for Phase I will be implemented for Phase II. Therefore, Phase II requires no further environmental reviews and the 2011 Final FNSI and Facility Plan Approval still applies with respect to them.

Discussed herein are things specific to Phase II; namely, public participation and the impact of debt recovery on sewer rates.

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<sup>1</sup> National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which outlines numeric discharge standards for regulated pollutants and other parameters, including compliance with water quality regulations.

Funding and Rate Impacts: The total Phase II project cost based on bids is \$2,088,725, including planning, design, construction and project administration. The funding sources include the Ohio Public Works Commission (\$778,315), the Community Development Block Grant program (\$490,000), the Appalachian Regional Commission (\$225,000) and the WPCLF (\$595,410).

Debt for Phase II will be recovered from the village's sewer rates. In 2012, Malta installed water meters for all customers and moved from a flat fee for sewer service to a debt recovery fee, plus monthly user charges, based on water usage. The user charge enacted in 2014 requires payment of \$52.00 per month for the first 3,000 gallons and \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons used in excess of 3,000 gallons.

Depending on the final costs after construction, the debt portion could be increased by approximately \$5.00 per bill per month. After construction of Phase II, the average annual residential sewer bill will rise from approximately \$758 under current sewer rates to \$834. This annual amount is approximately 2.3 percent of Malta's median household income of \$36,917.

In addition to the monthly sewer bill, some residents may have to pay for a new lateral from the public right-of-way to the structure being served at a cost of approximately \$15 per foot. The village will conduct testing of the sewer system to identify existing clear water connections to the sanitary sewer and, based on that, which properties will require new laterals.

Public Participation: The village has placed an article regarding the proposed project in the Morgan County Herald with opportunity for public response. This Environmental Assessment offers further opportunity for comments, which may be submitted to the contact person listed below. This project is not expected to be accompanied by significant public controversy. It is necessary for compliance with the village's NPDES permit. The funding package described above has a large percentage of grant money, and the village qualifies for a zero-percent WPCLF loan; taken together, these factors greatly increase the project's affordability.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the 2011 Environmental Assessment, the LTCP and field inspections, Phase II will have no adverse effect on the environmental features discussed above. Traffic will be managed for the least possible disruption. Noise, dust and odors will be controlled using standard construction best management practices.

Along with the other phases of the LTCP, Phase II will yield significant public health benefits from the reduced discharge of untreated sewage from CSOs.

For further 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

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

Figure: LTCP Phases

