



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Issues American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Loans to 7 Communities

Ohio EPA, working with funding provided through U.S. EPA, awarded \$19.3 million to 11 villages, counties and cities to refinance already approved projects using stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Projects receiving ARRA subsidies combined with low-interest loans include:

- The village of Blanchester in Clinton County received a \$479,858 ARRA subsidy to work with an equal amount of Water Pollution Control Loan funding for a total of \$959,716 to build a wastewater treatment plant pump station and equalization basin. The project, to be conducted in three phases, is designed to eliminate problems created when storm water enters the village's sewage system. When significant rain falls or snow melts in Blanchester, the storm water exceeds the sewer system's capacity and untreated sewage flows into Second Creek. The creek is a tributary to Todd's Fork. Bacteria levels in the sewage create a potential public health risk in the streams.
- Newark in Licking County received a \$5 million ARRA subsidy to add to a \$9 million Water Pollution Control Loan for a total of \$14 million to build a system that will rapidly treat large amounts of polluted storm water. The project aims to protect public health and water quality by minimizing overflows that release raw sewage mixed with storm water into local waterways. When the new system is completed, flows in excess of Newark's wastewater treatment plant capacity will be pumped into the new storm water system for treatment and disinfection prior to discharge into the Licking River. The new system will have a maximum design capacity of 28 million gallons per day. The project will improve water quality during wet weather events in the North and South Forks, and Licking River, by reducing the impacts from Newark's six combined sewer overflows. In 2004, Newark proposed a five-phase, 10-year sewer improvement plan and compliance schedule. When all five project phases have been completed, Newark's wastewater treatment plant is expected to fully comply with its permit.
- Van Wert County received a \$532,932 ARRA subsidy to combine with an equal amount of Water Pollution Control Loan funding for a total of \$1,065,864 to build a gravity sewer at U.S. Route 127 and State Route 118. Currently, this area is served by on-site home sewage treatment systems that dispense raw or partially treated wastewater into local drains and roadside ditches. Gravity flow sanitary sewer lines will be installed along these roadways carrying wastewater to a pump station to be constructed under the plan, and pumped to the city of Van Wert for treatment in the city's wastewater treatment plant.

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- The village of Sebring in Mahoning County received almost \$2.5 million as an ARRA subsidy to combine with an equal amount of Water Pollution Control Loan funding for a total of almost \$5 million for wastewater treatment plant improvements. The project includes constructing a new equalization tank system to eliminate bypasses of the wastewater treatment plant. A larger pipe will be installed to alleviate sewer backups in the western part of the village. The project will reduce impairment to the Mahoning River and remove the potential for public contact with untreated sewage due to sewer backups.

The following three drinking water projects also received funding:

- Danville village in Knox County received a \$285,869 ARRA subsidy to combine with an equal amount in Water Supply Revolving Loan funding for a total of \$571,738 to help build a new treatment plant for a new well field. The project is the last in a series to address water supply issues. The village abandoned an old well field after tests found bacteria. The village purchased land, drilled two new wells and replaced an aging water storage tank with a new standpipe to ensure a reliable water supply and delivery pressure.
- Crooksville in Perry County received a \$602,100 ARRA subsidy to combine with a \$150,525 Water Supply Revolving Loan award to interconnect a water main with the Burr Oak Regional Water Treatment District to address drinking water standard violations. Crooksville's existing water treatment plant has multiple violations of drinking water standards. The most cost-effective solution is to abandon the poorly functioning facility and install water lines to tie into Burr Oak's facility, construct a 220,000-gallon water storage tank and a water booster station. The project begins just south of the village of Corning, extends north along State Route 13 and County Road 22 (Tatman's Road) crossing State Route 37 and ending at a connection to the village of Crooksville water line. The existing Crooksville water treatment plant will be taken out of service once the new water system is found to be satisfactory. This will provide a more reliable system of safe drinking water and bring the facility into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Buckeye Lake village received a \$5 million ARRA subsidy to combine with a \$1.6 million Water Supply Revolving Loan award for a total of \$6,615,297 to build a water main distribution system. Buckeye Lake is one of the largest villages in the state without a public drinking water system, and has been planning one for many years. The village is installing nearly 67,000 feet of water lines, a pump station and a storage tank connecting to the village of Millersport's drinking water source. There have been a number of public health concerns, and many small businesses in Buckeye Lake have struggled to comply with regulatory standards. The system now under construction will tie in about two dozen small public water systems.

All of Ohio EPA's stimulus funding is being awarded in the form of direct subsidies to reduce the capital costs of the projects. Eight of the projects are partially funded with ARRA subsidies and partially funded under Ohio's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, while three projects will receive ARRA subsidies supplemented with loans under the state's Drinking Water Supply Revolving Loan Fund. These projects had originally been approved for loan funding this year, but under the shovel-ready guidelines of ARRA, were eligible to supplement the loans with federal assistance.

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ARRA funding will support 267 water pollution control projects in 160 communities and 65 drinking water projects in 52 communities in Ohio. These projects are the first to be funded. For additional information on the federal program, please visit www.epa.gov/recovery, or see the Web sites below for Ohio specific details.

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<http://www.epa.state.oh.us>

Water Pollution Control Projects: www.epa.state.oh.us/default/stimulus.html

Drinking Water Projects: http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/dwaf_economic_stimulus.htm