August 25, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Jefferson County
Reeds Mill Pump Station Replacement
Loan number: CS390041-0030

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment project in Jefferson County which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WPCLF program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bernstein
Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment
LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Reeds Mill Pump Station Replacement

Applicant: Jefferson County Water and Sewer District
P.O. Box 2579
Wintersville, OH 43953

Loan Number: CS390041-0030

Project Summary

The Jefferson County Water and Sewer District has requested financial assistance from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to upgrade the Reeds Mill Pump Station (RMPS) south of Belvedere (Figure 1). All work will be in or immediately adjacent to existing pump station structures inside the security fence, an area with mowed lawn or pavement lacking important environmental features.

History & Existing Conditions

Constructed in 1978, the RMPS pumps sanitary flows from more than 500 customers in unincorporated Belvedere and the Crestview subdivision to a gravity sewer draining to the County's Barbers Hollow Wastewater Treatment Plant. Pumps and related mechanical equipment and controls have reached or passed their useful life and two of the four pumps are inoperative.

Average daily flow to the RMPS is approximately 78,000 gallons. The four pumps are rated at 300 gallons per minute (gpm), and the average wastewater flow is equivalent to 110 gpm.

Project Description

This project will replace all pumps, pump control panels, a surge control tank, corroded valves, and piping; install variable frequency drives on pump motors, a magnetic flow meter, remote SCADA equipment, and an emergency generator; and upgrade electrical systems. Full pumping operation will be maintained during construction with portable pumps.

Implementation

Jefferson County will borrow approximately $2,088,000 from the WPCLF at the standard interest rate, now 0.67%, for a 20-year loan. The interest rate is set monthly and may change for a later loan award. Jefferson County will save approximately $290,000 by using WPCLF money at this rate, compared to the market rate of 1.92%.

This project does not require a sewer rate increase. Jefferson County Water and Sewer District residential customers have an annual average sewer bill of $672. This is approximately 1.6% of local median household income (MHI; $43,161) and compares favorably to the Ohio average annual sewer bill, $715. Sewer bills less than 1.8% of MHI are considered affordable.
Construction will start in late 2020 and be completed by mid-2021.

Public Participation

Local news articles, attention in regular meetings of the County Commissioners, and the County’s annual report have kept project information available to the local public. Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about the project.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (https://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa#169638769-wpclf-documents-for-review-and-comment) and will provide it on request to interested parties.
**Conclusion**

The proposed pump station replacement meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER): it is an action in a sewered community which is for minor upgrading and/or minor expansion of existing treatment works 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. Further, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

*Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources, no significant environmental effect, and will require no specific impact mitigation:* All work is within the security fence of the pump station on land previously disturbed by construction and lacking important environmental features.

*Is cost-effective and not controversial:* Jefferson County has evaluated the pump station and future needs and designed the rehabilitation accordingly. The project has been developed over several years with regular mention in local news and in official county documents. Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about the project.

*Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and 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:* This project merely replaces and upgrades the existing pump station and has no other effect on sewer volumes or treatment.

**For more information, please contact:**

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