



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

March 9, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Wellington – Lorain County
Ground Level Storage Tank Replacement and Reservoir Pumping Improvements
Loan number: FS390968-0011**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a drinking water project in Wellington which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) 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 WSRLA 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Bernstein" followed by a stylized flourish.

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Wellington Ground Level Storage Tank Replacement and Reservoir Pumping Improvements

Applicant: Steve Dupee, Village Manager
Village of Wellington
98 Johns Street
Wellington, OH 44090

Loan Number: FS390968-0011

Project Summary

The Village of Wellington in Lorain County has requested financial assistance from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to replace an aged and deteriorated water storage tank and improve raw water pumping to fill the upground reservoir. All work will be on land disturbed by previous construction and lacking important environmental features.

The existing 300,000-gallon ground level steel storage tank was constructed in 1953 and has passed its expected useful life.

The existing 300-horsepower (HP) pumps at the pumping facility adjacent to Charlemont Creek were installed when the facility was constructed in 1971 for the initial, rapid filling of the reservoir. Those pumps are oversized and are rarely used because the high velocity of water discharged re-suspends settled solids in the reservoir.

Project Description

Wellington proposes replacing the existing ground level tank with a 300,000-gallon glass-lined steel ground level tank adjacent to the existing elevated tank (Figure 1). The new tank location is adjacent to existing pipes running to and from the existing storage, minimizing construction disturbance and cost. Internal mixing and aeration equipment included in the new tank will help minimize regulated disinfection by-products (DBP) in drinking water and ensure the village water supply meets requirements for DBPs.

Improvements to the pumping facility (Figure 1) include replacing three 300-HP pumps and one 100-HP pump with three new 100-HP pumps with high-efficiency variable frequency drives which will minimize energy consumption and operational costs. Extending the paved parking area to the north side of the building will allow efficient access for crane trucks for pump removal and installation.

New level controls will allow remote monitoring of the new tank and reservoir level and remote controlling of the raw water pumps.



Figure 1 – Pump facility (circle) and new ground level storage tank (triangle) locations

Implementation

Wellington will combine \$350,000 from the Ohio Public Works Commission (\$175,000 grant, \$175,000 0.0% 30-year loan) with approximately \$1,055,000 borrowed from the WSRLA at a blended interest rate of the Small Community rate, currently 0.60% for 20 years, and 0.0% for the portion of the project components that allow the water system to deliver safe water during Harmful Algal Bloom occurrences. The Small Community rate is set monthly and may differ from the current 0.60%. Wellington will save approximately \$210,000 by using WSRLA dollars at the 0.60% rate compared to the current market rate, 2.35%.

Assuming a June 2020 loan award, construction should be complete in early 2021.

Public Participation

The public has been regularly informed about this project through televised and newspaper-reported Village Council meetings and by mention in the annual “State of the Village” address. 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#169638770-wsrla-documents-for-review-and-comment>) and will provide it on request.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); it is an action within an existing water treatment system which involves minor rehabilitation of existing

facilities and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent 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 because all work will be on land disturbed by previous construction that has no important environmental resources.

Is cost-effective and not controversial because it will prevent catastrophic failure of an aged water tank, improve quality of water delivered to customers, and increase energy efficiency in the system. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to the project.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, and does not 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, or substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters because it merely improves pump efficiency without increasing pump capacity and replaces an existing water tank with one of the same volume..

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population because it does not alter the treatment capacity or distribution system.

Contact information

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