



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

June 21, 2022

**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Village of Wellington – Lorain County  
WWTP UV Improvements  
Loan number: CS390968-0012**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment project in Wellington 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: WWTP UV Improvements

Applicant: Village of Wellington  
115 Willard Memorial Square  
Wellington, OH 44090

Loan Number: CS390968-0012



**Figure 1. Lorain County**

### **Project Summary**

The Village of Wellington, in Lorain County (Figure 1), has requested \$461,625 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to fund the WWTP UV Improvements project. This project involves the replacement of the existing ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system at the Wellington wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

### **History & Existing Conditions**

Wellington owns and operates a trickling-filter WWTP (Figure 2) and a gravity sanitary sewer collection system. The WWTP receives and treats an average flow of 0.63 million gallons daily. Following treatment, treated wastewater passes through a post aeration chamber and UV disinfection system prior to being discharged to the East Fork of Charlemont Creek.

The existing UV disinfection system was installed in 1997. The system is nearing the end of its expected useful life and has a history of hydraulic issues within the existing UV channel. To date, roughly \$60,000 has been expended on replacement system components. Additionally, the manufacturer will soon stop supporting this system.

For these reasons, Wellington is seeking a more cost-effective, sustainable solution to continue UV disinfection.

### **Project Description**

This project involves the replacement of the current UV disinfection system with a new, upgraded system. The proposed replacement will have the same features as the existing system but will also have the capability to automatically adjust the intensity of the UV light to accommodate periods of high flow and conserve energy during periods of low flow. Also included are miscellaneous tank, building, and electrical modifications.

### **Implementation**

Wellington proposes to borrow \$461,625 from the Ohio WPCLF at the small-community rate of 1.73 percent (interest rates are set monthly and may change for the requested July award date) to cover

the cost of this construction project and previous administration and engineering costs. Wellington is also receiving \$400,000 in funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission for this project. Borrowing WPCLF funds at this rate could save Wellington approximately \$97,000 over the 20-year loan term compared to the current market rate of 3.48 percent.

The debt associated with this construction project will be recovered from user charges. User rates were last increased by 5 percent in 2022 and are planned to increase by 5 percent in 2023 and 2024. The average annual sewer bill for residents served by Wellington will be \$475 upon completion of this project. This is 0.98 percent of the median household income for Wellington (MHI; \$48,333) and compares favorably to the Ohio average annual sewer bill of \$749.

Construction is expected to begin November 2022 and be completed by April 2023.

### **Public Participation**

This project has been discussed at regularly televised village council meetings and at council committee meetings that are open to the public.

Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on the following webpage and will provide it upon request: <https://epa.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/epa/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements>.

### **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater treatment system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing equipment. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

**Will have no significant environmental effect, will have no effect on high value environmental resources, and will require no specific impact mitigation.** This project merely involves replacement of the existing UV disinfection system at the Wellington WWTP; thus, there will be no short-term or long-term effect on environmental resources or the need for specific impact mitigation.

Wellington is only required to operate their UV disinfection system from May through October of each year. Replacement and initiation of operation of the UV disinfection system will occur outside of this period to avoid impacts to the typical wastewater treatment process.

**Is cost effective.** The existing UV disinfection system is nearing the end of its expected useful life and has a history of costly component replacements. Wellington determined it to be more cost effective to replace the UV system with a new, upgraded system rather than continue to expend funds maintaining the current system which will soon no longer be supported by the manufacture.

**Is not a controversial action.** Wellington's water and sewer rates are set by the village council to ensure that the water and sewer fund is self-sustaining and competitive with surrounding communities and other systems. The rate increases previously mentioned are not intended to cover the cost of this or any other one specific project, and the residential sewer bill will still compare favorably to the Ohio average upon completion of this project.

**Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, 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 involves replacement of the existing UV disinfection system and will not otherwise affect Wellington's wastewater system (collection and conveyance, treatment, discharge, etc.).

To conclude, Wellington's proposed project is sufficiently limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria to warrant an LER. The planning review identified no potential short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources (surface waters, coastal zones, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic and recreational rivers, prime and unique agriculture lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeological and historically significant sites, threatened and endangered species, and state and federal wildlife areas). Rather, completion of this project will ensure sustainable UV disinfection at the Wellington WWTP and continued protection of the Charlemont Creek.

**Contact information**

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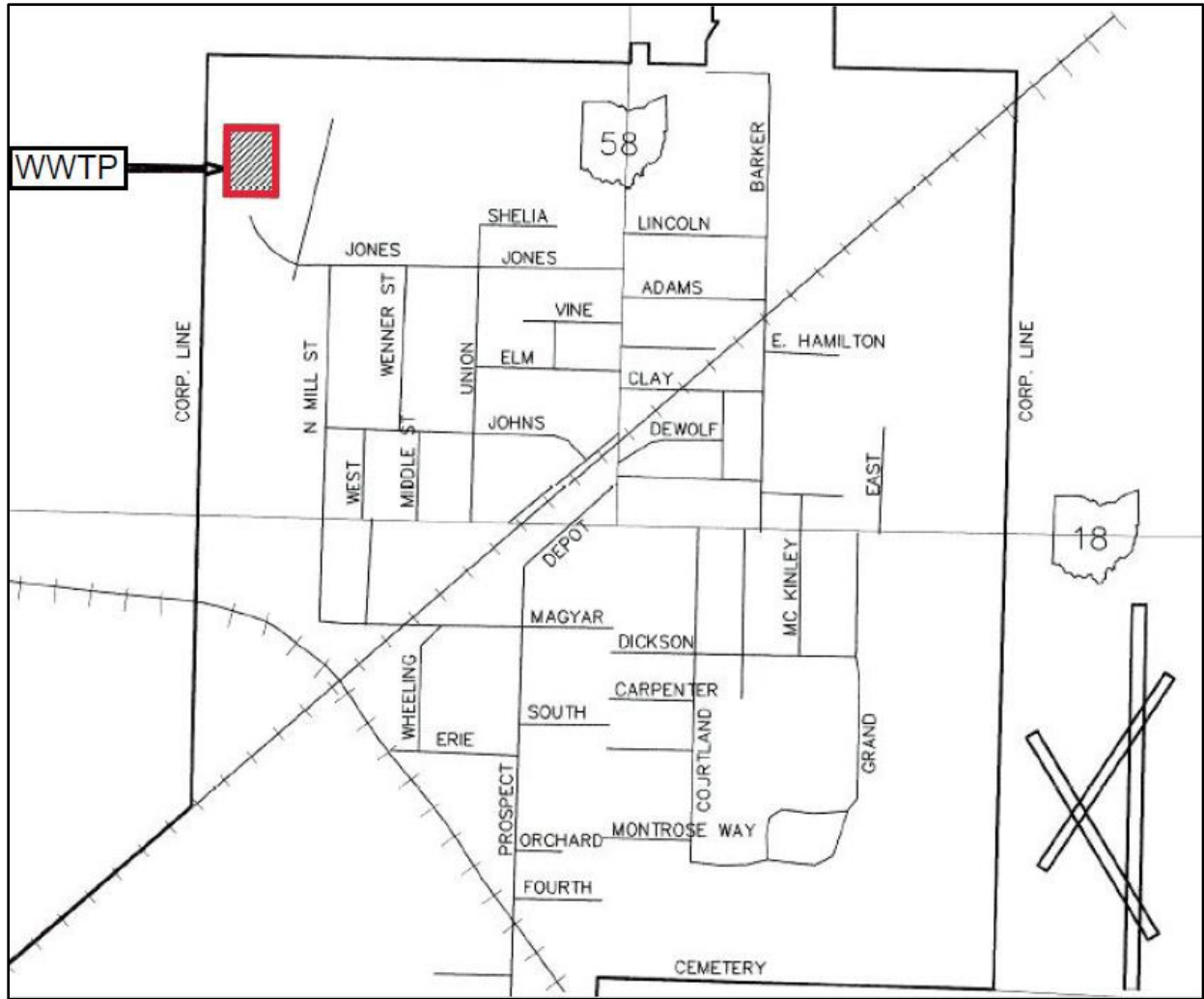


Figure 2. Village of Wellington WWTP (red)