May 12, 2022

«MAILNAM1»

 «MAILADR1»

 «MAILADR2»

Re: East Regional Waterline Improvement Project Update

Dear Property Owner,

This letter is intended to provide you with an update for the East Regional Waterline Improvement Project. The tentative schedules for each Village are as follows:

**Harrod** - Waterline installation is complete. Testing/chlorination is scheduled to be completed near the end of May. A City of Lima Representative will go door-to-door in May to hand out flags for property owners to mark (between the road and sidewalk) where their service line will be. A City of Lima crew will plan to be in the Village around June to begin setting meter pits.

**Lafayette** – Waterline installation is scheduled to be completed by the end of July with testing/chlorination to be completed in early August. A City of Lima Representative will go door-to-door in July/August to hand out flags for property owners to mark (between the road and sidewalk) where their service line will be. A City of Lima crew will plan to be in the Village around August/September to begin setting meter pits.

All property owners with a business or residence within the Village of Harrod or the Village of Lafayette will be required to connect to the water supply within 6 months of the waterline being publicly available. A letter will be sent to all property owners notifying you when the water is publicly available for connection. Our current estimate for this is September/October 2022. Once the waterline is available for connection, your service line has been installed and your tap fee has been paid, you may contact the City of Lima at 419-221-5175 to schedule the inspection of your well separation, meter installation and have the water turned on.

Our most recent Revised Total Project Cost Estimate as of 8/1/2021 was $11,400,000. With nearly $7 million in grant and local contributions, this equates to an *estimated* Monthly Debt Service Amount of between $31- $36 on your monthly water bill. There will be an option to pay in full up front as well.

Other Out-of-Pocket Costs to Property Owners:

* + Construction of private water service line. Approximate Cost - $1,000 (Assistance may be available for low-to-moderate income residents – \*see next page). A registered private water systems contractor is required to oversee the disconnection or abandonment of the well from the public water supply. The homeowner can become registered through their local health department.
	+ City of Lima Tap Fee - $500 for a standard 5/8” meter (includes bringing water to property owner side of street, installation of meter and curb stop)
	+ Well Permit Fee - $35 fee to abandon well and $175 fee to alter your well. **This fee (up to $175) will be covered by the Allen Water District for all property owners connecting to the waterline within the initial connection period. Please note there are out-of-pocket costs associated with abandoning your well outlined in OAC 3701-28-17.**

Property owners with frontage to the waterline project who reside outside the Villages and are interested in connecting to the waterline project should call the Allen Water District at 419-996-4679 for more information. Again, those who sign on in the initial connection period will have their well permit fees up to $175 covered by the District. The more property owners outside the Villages who sign on, the lower the cost will be for all users.

The District intends to hold a **Project Wrap-Up Meeting** in late summer/early fall once construction is substantially complete so final project costs can be presented. You should receive a notice of this meeting by mail. Our website and Facebook page will also be updated.

**What You the Property Owner Can Do *Now* to Prepare:**

***Water Service Line***

You can run your water service line now if you’d like. Copper or copper tube sized plastic underground tubing can be used and should be left coiled at the road right-of-way near the road. The service line should be ran to the street side of the sidewalk (if applicable).

***Water Service Agreement and Tap Fee***

You can enter into a “Water Service Agreement” with the City of Lima. This form is available on their website, [https://limawater.cityhall.lima.oh.us](https://limawater.cityhall.lima.oh.us/). Once completed, it can be mailed or dropped off to the City of Lima Utilities Customer Service Department at 424 N. Central Avenue Lima, Ohio 45801 along with a check for your tap fee. The standard tap fee due to the City of Lima for a standard 5/8” meter is $500. If you are anticipating using a meter larger than 5/8”, please contact the Customer Service Department at 419-221-5252 to determine your tap fee. \**\*A legible photo ID is required to be included for all applications for utility service\*\**

***Well Permit Process***

Contact the Allen County Health Department at 419-228-4457 to begin the well permitting process. The Health Department will develop a site plan for your parcel and walk you through the process of altering or abandoning your well. Most homeowners should be able to keep their wells for outdoor use if they so choose as long as the well is more than 10 feet away from any sewer line and the casing height is at least 8 inches above grade. If the casing height is below 8 inches, it can be raised to 12 inches under an alteration permit and the well can be kept. According to the Ohio Department of Health, the altering (keeping the well for outdoor use/raising the casing height/separation of the indoor plumbing from the well) or abandoning of the well, should be completed or supervised by a registered private water systems contractor. Property owners who intend to work on their private water system themselves should contact their local health district or the Private Water Systems Program staff at (614) 644-7558 or beh@odh.ohio.gov for more information. You can find a list of registered private water systems contractors in Allen and surrounding counties at: [allencountypublichealth.org](file:///%5C%5Csmofficefs%5Callenwaterdistrict%5CProjects%5CEast%20Regional%20Waterline%5CLetters%5Callencountypublichealth.org)

\*Property owners who meet low-to-moderate income standards may be eligible for assistance with service connection cost and tap fees. Please reach out to the following contact if you are interested in making application for assistance with these costs:

Nadine DeRan with USDA - nadine.deran@usda.gov or call 419-581-4505

Please note all dates and costs are estimates as of this date and are subject to change. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Stiles

Kimberly Stiles

Manager