



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

April 22, 2024

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
**Beecher Metropolitan District
Sanitary Sewer Improvements
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project No. 5927-01**

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a wastewater project plan submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project plan containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project plan or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at Michigan.gov/CWSRF under "Additional Links." The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

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HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at EGLE, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957.

We will not take any action on this project plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Valorie White, the project manager, at 517-599-5879, by email at WhiteV1@Michigan.gov or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Beauchamp

Dan Beauchamp, Section Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
517-388-3380

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
Environmental Assessment
Beecher Metropolitan District, Genesee County
April 2024

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: Beecher Metropolitan District

Address: G-1057 West Louis Avenue
Flint, Michigan 48505

Authorized Representative: Mr. Kevin Forbes, Superintendent

Project Number: 5927-01

PROJECT SUMMARY

Beecher Metropolitan District (Beecher) is located in Genesee County and was established in 1938. Beecher owns and operates a municipal wastewater collection system which discharges to the city of Flint (Flint) Wastewater Treatment Plant. Beecher anticipates seeing slight population growth over the next twenty years.

Beecher is applying for a 30-year low interest Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining, manhole rehab, force main replacement, and installation of a generator at Pump Station No.1 (PS1).

The estimated project cost is approximately \$5,040,000. The financial impact of this project to the average residential customer in Beecher would be a rate increase of up to \$18 per quarter.

Project construction is anticipated to begin in November 2024 and be completed by the end of 2025.

PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Project Need/Justification

The sanitary sewer system for Beecher consists of roughly 55 miles of sanitary sewer mains and five pump stations (PSs) and was constructed between 1951 and 1970. The collection system consists of gravity sewer main ranging in size from 8-inches to 24-inches in diameter, with pipe constructed with vitrified clay and reinforced concrete installed in the early 1950s. In 2016 Beecher utilized a Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) grant to clean and televise a large percentage of their collection system, and complete manhole and PS assessments. Many of the gravity mains are beyond their useful life, experience high break histories. They contain defects such as cracks, joint offsets, and holes which have a structural 4 or 5 which are the most critical defects in the National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) Pipeline Assessment Certification Program rating system. Additionally, system manholes were inspected with many found to be beyond their useful life, breaking down, and no longer providing the necessary protection and access to the system. The manhole defects were rated using the NASSCO Manhole

Assessment Certification Program and those manholes with the most critical defects were prioritized in an Asset Management Plan. The system also includes sections of force mains, generally located around the pump stations. These force mains are over 60 years old, and major breaks have begun to occur on a regular basis. With each break, wastewater is released to the surrounding area, causing an environmental hazard. Beecher has been replacing these sections of main as they can, and currently the segment leading to Pump Station No. 5 (PS5) has become a major threat and needs to be replaced.

B. Alternatives Considered

No-action Alternative

The no-action alternative would result in continuing excess water, overflows, aging mains and manholes, and worsening conditions throughout the system. This alternative was not considered further.

Regional Alternative

Beecher is already part of a regional system, as it discharges to Flint. Switching to the other regional system in the area, Genesee County Drain Commission, would be expensive, and require additional construction. Furthermore, this would not address the issues with the physical components such as sanitary mains, manholes, and force mains utilized by Beecher. Therefore, these alternatives were not considered further.

Optimization Alternative

Optimization of existing components without replacement or repairs of the sanitary sewer would not prevent sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), or failure as components beyond their useful life continue to age. Therefore, it was not considered further.

Replacement and Upgrades Alternatives

The only viable alternative for Beecher was replacement or rehabilitation of sanitary sewer components that are deficient and beyond their useful life. This consists of CIPP lining of gravity sewer segments, rehabilitation of manholes, replacement of the force main connected to PS5, and a new generator at PS1.

C. Selected Alternative

Beecher determined that their only viable alternative was replacement and rehabilitation. The proposed project will include approximately 4,200 linear feet of CIPP lining of gravity sewer mains, rehabilitation of 97 manholes, replacement of the force main leading to PS5, and a new generator at PS1 (Figure 1).

The selected alternative is expected to cost Beecher \$5,040,000 to construct. The project will be financed with a 30-year CWSRF loan at 2.00 percent interest. This includes design, construction, contingencies, financial, administrative, legal, and engineering services.

As a result of this total project, the average residential customer in Beecher can expect a rate increase of up to \$18 per quarter. Project construction is anticipated to begin in November 2024 and be completed by the end of 2025.

IMPACT OF PROJECT

A. Water Quality Impacts

The proposed project will prevent SSOs, limit surcharging, provide dedicated backup power to PS1, and increase the life of the collection system. This project will help ensure there is enough capacity in the system to meet peak demand flows for the next twenty years.

B. Primary Impacts

Impacts of construction activities associated with the project are considered short-term disruptions that, for the most part, will not extend beyond the period of construction. Short-term adverse impacts associated with construction include noise, dust, exhaust fumes, removal of groundcover, and increased erosion potential.

Construction associated with the projects will occur in the road right-of ways, and the existing pump station site. Construction contract provisions will be enforced for compliance with the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act to prevent damage to the surrounding areas from soil erosion, dust, and sedimentation.

This project is not expected to cause impacts on historical, archeological, religious, or culturally significant areas. No tree removal is anticipated during this project, however, if any is necessary, no trees will be cut from April 1 through October 14th during the Indiana bat and Northern long eared bat roosting season.

C. Secondary Impacts

No significant secondary impacts are anticipated as a result of this project. The project was designed to address the need for repairs to old components at the end of their useful life, prevent SSOs, and provide service for years to come. Improvements to the system are associated with the need to address deficiencies, public health threats, and increase the reliability of the system.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A formal public hearing for the proposed project was held in person at the Beecher Metropolitan District Administrative Office on April 12, 2023, after notice was posted on the Beecher website on March 27, 2023. Presentations were made on the project planning document, including alternatives considered, project impact, and estimated costs. Questions and comments were addressed at the public meeting. The Beecher Metropolitan District Board passed a resolution approving the project planning document and agreeing to implement the selected alternatives on April 12, 2023, during a board meeting.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project will replace or rehabilitate components at the end of their useful life, and provide dedicated power to PS1, while extending the life of the system. The water quality benefits anticipated from the project are expected to outweigh the short-term adverse impacts. Preventing SSOs and surcharging will provide long-term beneficial impacts.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Ms. Valorie White, Project Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-4957
Telephone: 517-284-5433
E-Mail: WhiteV1@Michigan.gov

Figure 1: Locations of proposed projects

