

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Standish Township Sewer Project
Arenac County, Michigan

Rural Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Standish Township, Arenac County, Michigan

Prepared by: Andrew H. Granskog, PE
Staff USDA Rural Development

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A. INTRODUCTION

Standish Township plans to submit a financing request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (RD) to construct a sewer system in Arenac County, Michigan. USDA RD is considering this financing request. Prior to taking a federal action (i.e., providing financial assistance), RD is required to complete an environmental impact analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (U.S.C. 4231 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and RD's NEPA implementing regulations, Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970). After completing an independent analysis of an environmental report prepared by Standish Township and its consultant, RUS concurred with its scope and content. In accordance with 7 CFR § 1970.102, RD adopted the report and issued it as the Agency's Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Project. RD finds that the EA is consistent with federal regulations and meets the standards for an adequate assessment. Standish Township published a newspaper notice, announcing the availability of the EA for public review, in accordance with 7 CFR § 1970.102. In addition, RD considers the proposed Project an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 USC 470(f), and its implementing regulation, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE/NEED

The overall purpose of the Project is to construct a sewer system to serve the residents in Whites Beach. RD has reviewed the purpose and need for the Project and determined that the proposal will meet the present and future needs of Standish Township.

C. ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED

1. No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, RD would not provide financial assistance to Standish Township, and/or the proposed Project would not be constructed. This alternative would not assist Standish Township in providing sewer service to residents in Whites Beach.

2. Action Alternative (Preferred Alternative)

Under the Action Alternative, RD would consider financing the proposed Project, and Standish Township would construct the sewer system. The proposed project would a sanitary sewage forcemain to connect the existing grinder pump collection system to Pinconning's municipal sewer system.

3. Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration

In addition to the No Action Alternative and Action Alternative, Standish Township considered other technology and siting alternatives, which are documented in the **Alternatives** section of the EA.

D. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The analyses in the EA documented that the proposed Project would have no adverse effects to land use, floodplains, wetlands, biological resources,

cultural resources, coastal resources water resources or air quality. A summary of anticipated impacts on the human environment is provided in the Environmental Assessment. The mitigation measures deemed necessary to avoid or minimize impacts include an Unanticipated Discoveries Workplan in the construction contract and archaeological monitoring during construction for a portion of the forcemain route.

E. PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

A local newspaper advertisement [and as appropriate, legal notice], announcing the availability of the EA and participation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, was/were published on May 16-19 in the Bay City Times, Bay City, Bay County, Michigan. A copy of the EA was available for public review at Standish Township, and USDA Rural Development, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, MI 48823. The **14**-day comment period ended on May 30, 2024. USDA and Standish Township received no comments.

F. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on its EA, RD has concluded that the proposed Project would have no significant effects to any of the above-mentioned resources. The proposed Project will have no effects on historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and no effects to federally listed species or designated critical habitat.

The proposed Project would not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and RD's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970), RD has determined that the environmental impacts of the proposed Project have been adequately addressed and that no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment would result from construction and operation of the proposed Project. Any final action by RD related to the proposed Project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant federal and state environmental laws and regulations. Because RD's action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, RD will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its potential federal action associated with the proposed Project.

G. [Acronym] LOAN REVIEW AND RIGHT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

This FONSI is not a decision on a loan application and therefore not an approval of the expenditure of federal funds. Issuance of the FONSI and its notices concludes RD's environmental review process. The ultimate decision on loan approval depends upon conclusion of this environmental review process in addition to financial and engineering reviews. Issuance of the FONSI and publication of notices will allow for these reviews to proceed. The decision to provide financial assistance also is subject to the availability of loan funds for the designated purpose in RD's budget. There are no provisions to appeal this decision (i.e., issuance of a FONSI). Legal challenges to the FONSI may be filed in Federal District Court under the Administrative Procedures Act.

H. APPROVAL

This Finding of No Significant Impact is effective upon signature.

Signature

Brandon Fewins
Name

State Director
Title