



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

September 29, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Sardinia – Brown County
Charlotte, Mae, Alley Streets 6-inch Water Main Replacement
Loan number: FS390832-0004**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water distribution project in Sardinia 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,

Jonathan Bernstein

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Charlotte, Mae, Alley Streets 6-inch Water Main Replacement

Applicant: Village of Sardinia
P.O. Box 227
Sardinia, Ohio 45171

Loan Number: FS390832-0004

Project Summary

The Village of Sardinia requested financial assistance from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to replaced aged cast iron 4-inch water mains with 6-inch PVC water mains. All work will be on land disturbed by previous construction and lacking important environmental features. The estimated loan for this project is \$220,963, with construction scheduled to begin in February 2021 and be completed in six months.

The proposed water main replacement will improve drinking water quality, quantity, and pressure.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Sardinia is located partially in Brown County and partially in Highland County. The village purchases drinking water from Brown County Rural Water Association. Currently, the village has 502 water accounts and a water system made up of half PVC pipe and half older 4-inch cast iron pipe.

In the project area, the water main is older 4-inch cast iron that was constructed in 1947. The pipe has deteriorated, experiences breaks, and has low pressure.

Project Description

The project includes work along Charlotte Avenue, Mae Street, and Alley Street. The new 6-inch line will replace old 4-inch line along these streets and connect to the existing 6-inch line along Tri County Highway (See Figure 1).

Individual water service lines will be replaced from the water main to residential and business units. Fire hydrants will be installed every 400 feet.



Figure 1. Project location

Implementation

Sardinia will borrow \$220,963 from the WSRLA at the small community rate of 0.18% for a 30-year loan. Sardinia will save approximately \$67,000 by using WSRLA funding compared to the current market rate of 1.98%.

The median household income (MHI) in Sardinia is \$37,279. Including the annual 5% increase through 2021, the 2022 water rate will be \$730/year, or 1.9% of the MHI. This rate is higher than the Ohio average of 1.2%.

Assuming a December 2020 loan award, construction should begin in February 2021 and be completed by June 2021.

Public Participation

The village held public council meetings to discuss the project. Based on a newspaper article from March 16, 2017, the residents have been informed about the necessary rate increases that were delayed and urgently needed for capital improvements. The article includes information about complaints at that time, but Ohio EPA is unaware of any ongoing controversy.

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); namely, it is an action within an existing water distribution system, which involves minor upgrading of water lines. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources because all work will be on land disturbed by previous construction that has no important environmental features.

Is cost-effective and not a controversial action because it will prevent failure of aged water distribution lines and ensure continued water delivery to customers. The village began a necessary capital improvement water rate increase in 2018, which will continue through 2021. There is no known opposition to the project and by using WSRLA funding, the village saved ratepayers \$67,000.

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 the project only replaces existing water lines and does not impact withdrawals or discharges.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population since the project is not related to serving new growth and instead replaces existing equipment.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources. Implementation of appropriate construction mitigation measures is required by the contract specifications and construction activity will be limited to the existing, previously disturbed road rights-of-way. The project will benefit the project service area by replacing aged water service structures and will help reduce water system costs by minimizing/eliminating water loss.

Contact information

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