



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

January 12, 2022

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Bellaire – Belmont County
Lead Service Line Replacement
Loan number: FS390149-0009**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a drinking water distribution project in Belmont County 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, Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project Name: Lead Service Line Replacement

Applicant: Village of Bellaire
Municipal Building
3197 Belmont Street
Bellaire, Ohio 43906

Loan Number: FS390149-0009

Project Summary

The Village of Bellaire has requested \$1,000,000 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for the Lead Service Line Replacement project to replace lead service lines (LSL) in Bellaire's water distribution system. Up to \$1,000,000 of WSRLA financing will be in the form of principal forgiveness, a loan that does not need to be repaid. Due to the nature of the project, environmental impacts will be minimal. Construction is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2022 and last approximately three months.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Bellaire is located along the Ohio River in Belmont County (see Figure 1) and owns and operates a drinking water treatment plant (WTP), which provides drinking water to a service population of approximately 4,106. The Bellaire WTP draws its raw water from two collector wells set at approximately 80 feet in depth adjacent to the bank of the river, and currently produces an average of 0.9 million gallons per day (MGD).

In 2021, Bellaire received a WSRLA loan for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements project to address source water contamination. The project will also include improvements in the distribution system to address significant water losses, including distribution valves, and a water loss program.

Project Description

The proposed Lead Service Line Replacement project (see Figure 2) will replace approximately 225 lead service lines in Bellaire's distribution system. Line replacement will take place on both the public and private sides of the water service.

Work for the project will be restricted to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and include temporary traffic controls. The city will also arrange for traffic safety measures, erosion control measures, restoration of all areas, and spoil disposal. Water will be temporarily shut off during pipe replacement.

Implementation

The total estimated loan amount for the project is \$1,000,000, which Bellaire hopes to receive from the WSRLA in the form of a principal forgiveness loan, which will not need to be repaid. During the standard 20-year loan period, Bellaire will save approximately \$1,202,000 by using WSRLA principal forgiveness monies, compared to borrowing the total project amount at the current market rate (January 2022) of 1.86%.

Current monthly rates, based on calculated average usage, are \$44.92, or \$539 annually. This equates to 1.78 percent of the local median household income (MHI) of \$30,257, and compares favorably to the Ohio average bill, \$639.

Public Participation

The invitation to bid for the project was announced in the local newspaper, as was the bid opening. Project information will be shared on social media and discussed further via the local newspaper. Residents and businesses will be notified in advance of the project outlining the scheduled and actual construction dates and requirements for access to properties.

Ohio EPA is unaware of the controversy about or opposition to this project and the Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact will be posted on Village of Bellaire and Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance websites.

Conclusion

Due to the nature of the proposed improvements, and the limited, previously disturbed locations where lead service lines are typically sited, Ohio EPA has determined that these project activities should have no significant adverse effect on major land forms, terrestrial or aquatic habitat, rare or endangered species, surface water, ground water, wetlands, floodplains, land use patterns, agriculture, air quality, archaeological and historical resources, noise, traffic, aesthetics, energy resources, or the local economy. Public health threats will be reduced by eliminating existing sources of lead in drinking water.

The proposed Lead Service Line Replacement project is a water system infrastructure improvement (rehabilitation of existing facilities) that qualifies for a Limited Environmental Review (LER) and meets the following additional criteria for an LER:

Will have no significant environmental effect, does not require extensive specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. Construction will be done in the existing right-of-way and in lawns in developed residential locations that lack important environmental resources. Due to the nature of the work to replace private lead service lines using an excavation tool, any impacts will be minimal to non-existent. Little to no tree removal is expected to take place as part of this project. Temporary water service interruptions will be communicated to affected customers.

Is cost effective. There is no feasible alternative to replacing lead service lines, and Bellaire is utilizing principal forgiveness monies to fund this project.

Is not controversial, as Bellaire and Ohio EPA are unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, 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, 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. The project will merely improve existing infrastructure and eliminate a threat to public health and have no effect on water withdrawal, treatment, discharge, or water source.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. The project involves replacing existing lead service lines in Bellaire and does not impact capacity.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant adverse impacts. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources. Applicable construction impact mitigation measures and practices will be followed, and the project will eliminate lead material from drinking water lines, which will reduce public health threats.

Contact information

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Figure 1 - General project area

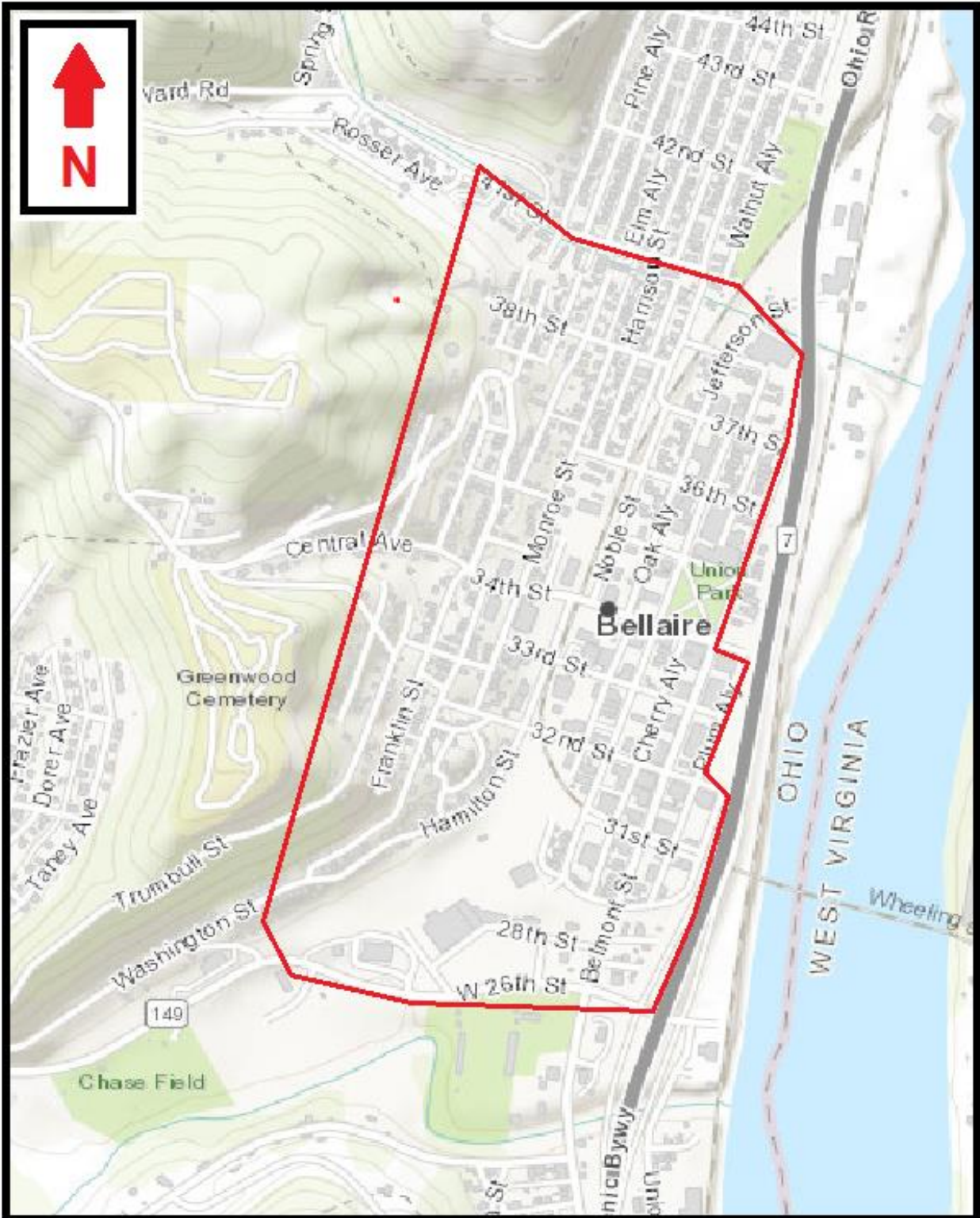


Figure 2 - Lead Service Line Replacement project area (in red)