



December 19, 2024

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Springfield – Clark County
Henry Street Sewer Replacement
Loan number: CS390880-0021**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sewer replacement project in Springfield which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the 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 program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Henry Street Sewer Replacement

Applicant: City of Springfield
76 East High Street
Springfield, Ohio 45502

Loan Number: CS390880-0021



Figure 1. Clark County

Project Summary

The City of Springfield has requested funding from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance their Henry Street Sewer Replacement project. Work for this project will include relocating an existing sewer main from underneath a recycling facility to a more accessible location.

History & Existing Conditions

The City of Springfield is located in Clark County (Figure 1). Springfield owns and operates their own wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and collection system. They have been upgrading their collection system by working on reducing and/or eliminating combined sewer overflows (CSOs) caused by wet weather conditions. While surveying their CSOs, Springfield found that the two combined 24-inch sewer mains that run underneath a local commercial recycling facility were clogged with debris. In addition, the manholes to access this sewer are inaccessible because they were underneath mounds of recycling materials. The city explored several options for rectifying the issue and found that moving the sewer main outside of the property was the most cost effective. The relocation of the sewer will not eliminate the CSO, however it will reduce the amount of overflow that is currently occurring into Buck Creek.

Project Description

The project will consist of re-routing the two existing 24-inch sewer lines from underneath the facility and moving them to the west along the northern property line so that they are outside the recycling facility. The sewer line will discharge at an existing outlet into Buck Creek. The existing sewer lines will be abandoned. See Figure 2 below for a map of the project area.



Figure 2. Map of the project area. The orange line represents the new sewer line

Implementation

The City of Springfield has requested approximately \$1.8 million from the Ohio WPCLF at the standard interest rate of 2.84%. WPCLF interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. Assuming a 30-year loan, borrowing this amount in WPCLF dollars could save Springfield approximately \$483,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate, 4.14%.

Springfield will not be raising sewer rates in order to pay for this project. The average annual sewer bill for residents served by Springfield is \$409. This is 0.9% of the median household income (MHI: \$45,113) and less than the Ohio average annual sewer bill, \$490. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2025 and to be completed in approximately six months.

Public Participation

This project has been discussed at city council meetings open to the public.

Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about this project. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page:

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements>

and will provide it on request to interested parties.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater treatment and collection system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing sanitary sewer. 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 no environmentally sensitive resources are likely present in the prior-disturbed road rights-of-way and recycling facility property where the sewer re-routing will take place. No trees will be removed, and the relocation of sewer will mean a reduction in CSOs since the new mains will not be clogged with debris.

Is cost effective and is not a controversial action because re-routing clogged sanitary sewer is more cost effective than attempting to reach the current sewer that is located underneath buildings in an active commercial recycling facility. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, and 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 and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population because this project merely re-routes an existing sanitary sewer line and will decrease discharges. Service will not be extended in any way nor provide additional capacity.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated. This project will result in new sanitary sewer that will replace a combined sewer line that is currently obstructed and overflowing into Buck Creek.

Contact Information

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