November 14, 2025

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Village of Woodville – Sandusky County
Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
Loan number: CS391013-0011

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a WWTP project in Woodville 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,

Kathleen Courtright

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LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Applicant: Village of Woodville
530 Lime Street
Woodville, Ohio 43469

Loan Number: CS391013-0011

Project Summary

The Village of Woodville has applied for funding from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project. This project is being undertaken to address its Administrative Order on Consent issued by U.S. EPA for violations at its wastewater treatment plant through upgrades and improvements to aged treatment equipment. The estimated loan amount for the project is $9,673,200, with construction scheduled to begin January 2026 and to be completed in 24 months.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Woodville, located in Sandusky County (see Figure 1), owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located on County Road 117. The WWTP is rated for an average daily design flow of 0.3 million gallons per day (MGD) and a peak daily design flow of 1.04 MGD. Treatment consists of a two-cell aerated waste stabilization lagoon, which is disinfected by a chlorination and dechlorination process, and treated wastewater is discharged to the Portage River.

The village's wastewater collection has been historically served by a combined sanitary sewer system approximately 26 miles in length. In 2010, the village began the process of separating the combined sewers, with the first phase of separation completed in 2014. The second phase of the sewer separation primarily focused on the downtown area and was completed by 2020. Since completion of the two primary separation projects, the village has been working on remaining areas of combined sewers, identifying any remaining stormwater connections, removing connections to sump pumps, and identifying areas where infiltration and inflow (I&I)[1] may be having a significant impact on flows to the WWTP. These additional flows during wet weather events contribute to effluent violations at the WWTP.

[1] Infiltration is the ground water that seeps into sanitary sewers through cracks, offset joints and other flaws in the pipe. Inflow is surface runoff that enters sanitary sewers through directly connected downspouts, area drains, etc.

The village is under an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) issued by the U.S. EPA to address significant non-compliance and effluent violations that have occurred at the WWTP. The AOC outlines that the WWTP has been in significant noncompliance since 2016 as a result of effluent violations. Violations that most commonly occurred were related to total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations and loadings, with infrequent violations of carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD), E. Coli, and mercury. The village's WWTP has historically had issues with algae growth within the lagoon cells, and it is believed that algae growth is the primary cause of TSS and CBOD violations. The village has attempted to control the excessive growth of algae using various technologies, including adding bales of barley straw to the lagoon, chemically feeding of ferric chloride, and utilizing ultrasonic algae control devices. Despite these efforts, exceedances continue to occur.

The AOC requires the submittal of a corrective action plan (CAP) for addressing WWTP violations. A component of the CAP is performing an alternatives analysis to provide options to bring the WWTP into compliance. Woodville's alternatives analysis included the evaluation of adding supplemental treatment processes following the lagoon system, building a new state-of-the-art mechanical treatment facility utilizing sequencing batch reactor technology, and utilizing oxidation ditch technology.

Project Description

The proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements project (see Figure 2) is designed to upgrade the WWTP to reliably treat its wastewater to ensure effluent quality meets the conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The majority of construction will take place within the area of the existing WWTP facility that has experienced extensive disturbance and contains various structures and underground utilities. The water service portion of the project, as required by U.S. EPA to improve WWTP operations, will extend a water main to the WWTP from existing water lines along Water Street and includes a directionally bored crossing of the Portage River. Specifically, the project includes the construction and installation of the following:

Lagoon Aeration System Upgrade

- Installation of two 50-horsepower (HP) diffused air blowers
- Installation of new low-pressure air supply piping and valves
- Installation of 18 new bubble diffusers and supports

New Filter Building

- Construction of a new filter building
- Installation of two cloth disk filtration units
- Installation of two 2-HP backwash pumps

UV Disinfection

- Installation of a pre-cast concrete disinfection channel
- Installation of two UV disinfection modules

Water Service

- Installation of approximately 2,500 linear feet of 8-inch diameter water line to service the WWTP

Implementation

The estimated loan amount for this project is $9,673,200 and Woodville proposes to borrow the entire amount from Ohio's WPCLF. The project qualifies for a 0% hardship interest rate. Borrowing this loan amount at 0% will save Woodville approximately $8,500,000 over the life of the loan compared to borrowing the same amount at the current market rate of 4.71%.

Debt for the project will be repaid from monthly sewer fees. The local median household income (MHI) is $73,883. Under the sewer rates that are effective in 2025 and based on a usage of 4,000 gallons of water per month, the average residential sewer bill is $67.39 per month, or $809 per year, as compared to the state average of $490. Sewer rates were previously increased, in part, to fund WWTP and sewer collection improvement projects within the village and will not increase specifically for this project.

Public Participation

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. The project has been discussed at village council meetings, and information regarding rate increases was conveyed to residents and businesses with monthly bills. The Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the LER and FNSI have been provided to the Village of Woodville to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater treatment plant, which involves improvements to existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation. Construction will not adversely affect any special resource type, general construction environmental protections will be in place, noise will be controlled with silencers on mobile equipment, dust and odors will be controlled, and air quality will be protected with emissions controls on mobile equipment and with the use of street sweeping and dust suppressants, as applicable

Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. Construction will be limited to improvements to an existing WWTP that has undergone extensive disturbance, as well as extension of a drinking water main primarily along road rights-of-way. No significant effects are expected to the

following: floodplains, wetlands, surface water, endangered/threatened species or their habitat, state and federally designated wild and scenic rivers, recreational rivers, or wildlife areas, and archaeological, historic or cultural resources.

Is cost effective. The improvements to the existing wastewater treatment system were evaluated as more cost effective compared to the full replacement of the WWTP.

Is not a controversial action. There is no known opposition to the proposed project, the cost of which is not overly burdensome to ratepayers, and will be financed through the WPCLF, saving approximately $8,500,000 in interest payments compared to conventional financing.

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. The project involves improvements to the existing WWTP and not increases to pollutant discharges. Rather, this project should result in improved discharges to the receiving stream.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. The project is not related to serving new growth or increasing capacity at the wastewater treatment facilities.

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. The proposed project is a cost-effective way to address a poorly functioning WWTP that is unable to maintain compliance with its NPDES permit. The project will allow Woodville to reduce effluent violations related to issues with the WWTP's waste stabilizing lagoons and protect the fully attaining warmwater habitat receiving stream. The project will also address Woodville's AOC issued by the U.S. EPA to address significant non-compliance and effluent violations that have occurred at the WWTP, as well as reduce nutrients which contribute to harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. Also, by using WPCLF low-interest financing, Woodville has minimized the project cost.

Contact Information

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Figure 1. General project area

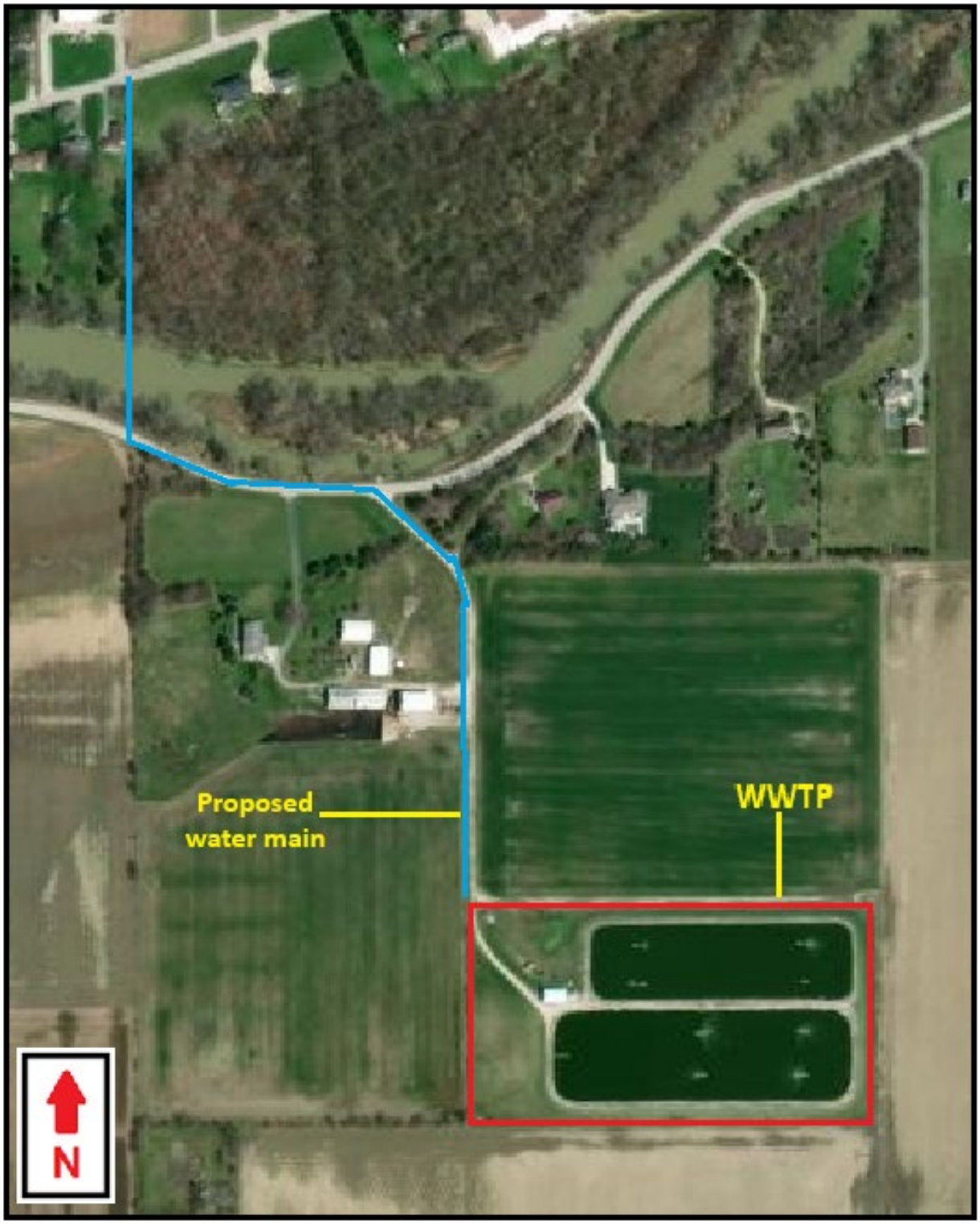

Figure 2. Specific project areas