



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

June 30, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Marietta – Washington County
Aeration System Upgrade
Loan number: CS390571-0013**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment project in Marietta which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) 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 WPCLF 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: Aeration System Upgrade

Applicant: City of Marietta
301 Putnam Street
Marietta, OH 45750

Loan Number: CS390571-0013

Project Summary

The City of Marietta, in Washington County, has requested financial assistance from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to upgrade the aeration system in the city's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). All work will be in the existing WWTP (Figure 1), mainly replacing and upgrading mechanical equipment and controls, with no disturbance to important environmental resources.

History & Existing Conditions

Marietta owns and operates a 4.0 million gallon per day WWTP that provides primary and secondary treatment followed by disinfection and discharge to the Ohio River. The biological treatment aeration system is aged and deteriorating, with increasing operation and maintenance costs.

A recent evaluation of the existing conditions and of available replacement blowers, air diffusers, and controls showed potential overall operation cost savings of 45% and a 15% reduction of electrical usage by replacing the aeration system.

Project Description

This project involves demolition of existing blowers, air piping, diffusers, and associated electrical components and installation of new blowers, piping, diffusers, associated electrical components, automated controls, and structural modifications for the new equipment. All work will be phased to ensure continued, effective operation to maintain compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements during construction.

Implementation

Marietta will finance this project with \$375,000 of local funds and approximately \$2,184,000 from the WPCLF at the standard interest rate, now 1.03%, for 25 years. The interest rate is set monthly and may change for a later loan award. Marietta will save approximately \$411,000 by using WPCLF money at this rate, compared to the market rate of 2.33%.

Construction will start in August 2020 and be completed in 12 months.



Figure 1 – WWTP location and aeration tanks

Sewer rates in Marietta will average \$515/year for a typical residential customer upon project completion. This is about 1.4% of local median household income (MHI; \$35,556), which is above the state average of 1.3% of MHI. Marietta annually reviews sewer revenue and adjusts rates as necessary to ensure fiscal health.

Public Participation

This project has been discussed in regular City Council meetings and is included in the list of capital projects on the city web page.

Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about the project.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (<https://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa#169638769-wpclf-documents-for-review-and-comment>) and will provide it on request to interested parties.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is a project in a sewerred community for minor upgrading and/or minor expansion of existing treatment works including, but not limited to, minor rehabilitation of existing facilities and functional replacement of existing mechanical equipment or structures. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources, no significant environmental effect, and will require no specific impact mitigation: All work will be entirely in existing structures in the WWTP, distant and isolated from important environmental resources.

Is cost-effective and not controversial: Engineering evaluation shows the new equipment will save significantly on operation and maintenance costs and provide an annual 15% reduction in electrical consumption. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project that will help ensure effective wastewater treatment with no sewer rate increase.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters; 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: This project merely replaces aged and deteriorated mechanical systems and will have no other effect on WWTP operations or capacity.

For more information, please contact:

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