



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Craig W. Butler, Director

June 1, 2015

Notice of issuance of a Limited Environmental Review (LER) and final Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to all interested citizens, organizations and government agencies

**Village of Cleves, Hamilton County  
Jackson Street/Hooven Road, East State Road Water Main Replacement  
St. Annes Avenue Water Main Extension  
WSRLA Loan No.: FS390264-0017**

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the above-referenced project and finds that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor a Supplemental Study (SS) is required to complete the environmental review of the project. Instead, the proposed project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER). These criteria are summarized below in this document and in the attached LER.

The Drinking Water Assistance Fund (DWAFF) Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process for project approval. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action in its project planning review and approval process. A subsequent review by this Agency has found that the proposed action does not require the preparation of an EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed project is limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria, an LER is warranted. Specifically, the proposed project constitutes an action in the community with an existing public water system, which involves minor upgrades and/or minor expansion of existing water treatment and distribution systems including, but not limited to, functional replacement of existing mechanical equipment or structures and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. As such, the Village of Cleves' proposed project constitutes activities meeting these criteria.

Furthermore, the proposed project:

- ◀has no potential for associated significant environmental impacts;
- ◀will not require extensive impact mitigation unique to the assistance proposal;
- ◀will have no effect on high value environmental resources;
- ◀is cost-effective and is not the subject of significant public interest;
- ◀will not create a new or relocate and existing discharge of wastewater to surface or ground waters or cause pollution of surface or ground waters;

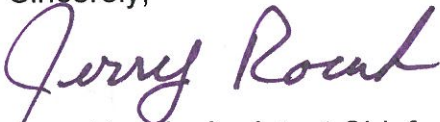
- ◀will not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from either surface or ground waters or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source;
- ◀will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters; and
- ◀will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population.

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is included as part of the LER. The LER presents additional information on the proposed project such as its costs and the basis for the Agency's decision. Further information may be obtained by calling or writing the contact person named at the end of the LER.

The LER was completed for this proposed project as it will not individually, cumulatively over time or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local or private actions have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment. Consequently, a FONSI can be issued now for this proposed project.

Upon issuance of this FONSI determination, loan award may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided that determines that environmental conditions for the proposed project have significantly changed.

Sincerely,



Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief  
Office of Financial Assistance  
Division of Environmental and  
Financial Assistance

JR/rsb

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### A. Project Identification

Name: Village of Cleves  
Jackson Street/Hooven Road, East State Road Water Main  
Replacement; St. Annes Avenue Water Main Extension

Address: Village of Cleves  
Attn: Eric Winhusen, Water Superintendent  
101 N Miami Avenue  
Cleves, Ohio 45002

Loan No.: FS390264-0017

### B. Introduction and Purpose

The Village of Cleves has applied to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (Ohio EPA) Drinking Water Assistance Fund (DWAFF) for financing of two water line replacements (along Jackson St/Hooven Rd and East State Rd) and a new water line extension (along St. Annes Ave). This Limited Environmental Review (LER) has been prepared, in accordance with the DWAFF procedures, to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

The proposed water line replacement along Jackson St/Hooven Rd is intended to address water main breaks. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance amount to approximately \$31,500 a year. The existing water main was inherited years ago and does not meet current state and local requirements. Furthermore, the existing two- and six-inch diameter water mains cannot meet the water needs of over 300 residents in the Hooven community. The proposed eight-inch diameter water main will connect to an existing water main located on U.S. Route 50 and begin the replacement of the vital northern transmission water main in Whitewater Township.

The purpose of the proposed 12-inch diameter water main replacement on East State Road and the proposed 12-inch diameter water main extension along St Annes Avenue is to complete the eastern transmission water supply loop for the Miami Township, North Bend and Cleves eastern areas of the water system in the high ground area. The completion of this water main loop will sufficiently meet the water demands in the area. The East State Road replacement project will also eliminate water main breaks in the existing 1926 unlined cast iron pipe. These breaks add to customer frustrations and unnecessary costs for water operations and maintenance.

### C. Existing Need

In 1998, Cleves Waterworks constructed a new water treatment plant on Kilby Road along the Whitewater River to replace the old water treatment plant in the Village center along the Great Miami River. The new Kilby Road plant contains facilities for fluoride and chlorine treatment as required by Ohio EPA. The current rated capacity of the treatment plant is five million gallons per day (MGD). The water sources are

three ground water wells adjacent to the treatment plant in the Whitewater buried valley aquifer. Additional wells can be added as necessary. The ground water supply is tested regularly and complies with all Ohio EPA drinking water standards.

The Cleves water system is an Ohio EPA approved public water system with an Ohio EPA certified Class III Operator. The water system contains three high service pumping units located at the water treatment plant, each rated at 750 gallons per minute. These pumping units are capable of delivering up to eight MGD through 16-inch diameter discharge piping. A fourth slot is available for a future pump. A back-up diesel generator exists at this site for any power outages affecting treatment and pumping operations.

These high service pumps deliver water to existing ground storage tanks for the entire water system. These ground storage tanks are located on the high grounds, one along Bridgetown Road, the second one along Rittenhouse Road. The entire water system is contained within one pressure gradient service area, with an overflow elevation of 860 feet at both tanks. High water pressure is a concern affecting the existing water mains, with increasing break rates of five events per year.

The distribution system contains about 80 miles of water mains ranging in sizes from 2-inch diameter to 16-inch diameter, with the vast majority of piping being 6- and 8-inch diameter. The water mains are generally cast iron or ductile iron pipe ranging in ages from new to 100 years. Water valves exist at street intersections and generally at least every 1000 feet. Key transmission main valves are exercised regularly to reduce risk and provide service during any emergency operation.

The water system pressures range from 35 pounds per square inch (psi) along the hilltop areas of Miami and Whitewater townships to around 170 psi along the river valley areas.

Currently, the Cleves water customer base contains about 2,950 water services. All water services have water meters, which are read monthly or quarterly. The top 20 customers all have excellent water supply connections meeting their daily water requirements. Water losses have increased over the years due to normal water main and tank leakage that is addressed regularly. All water meters have been replaced within the last 10 years and are now read using touchpad or radio technology. Water loss through the distribution piping system, system leakage, fire flows and flushing, normal operations, theft and unmetered water is in the range of 20 percent according to billing and water supply records.

Low water pressure and weak flow during summer months in the East State Road area, a growing residential community area, is a concern affecting the East State Road water main. Furthermore, increasing breaks in the existing lines along East State Road and Jackson St/Hooven Road are an unnecessary economic burden for the Village.

#### D. Project Description

On Jackson St/Hooven Rd, the Village of Cleves has proposed to replace approximately 2,500 linear feet of existing six-inch diameter water main, services and fire hydrants from US 50/River Road to Hooven Street in the community of Hooven with an eight-inch diameter water main. This will improve community water supply and provide water to the vital northern water main loop for transmission of water between Miami and Whitewater townships. Current water operation costs for the Hooven community are estimated to be at least \$54,000 per year for flushing, customer responses, main breaks and service issues. The proposed water main will significantly reduce most of this excessive operations work and improve water quality and supply for an older community that has patiently waited for improvements.

On East State Road, the Village proposes to replace approximately 600 linear feet of existing six-inch diameter unlined cast iron water main in an existing easement along a portion of East State Road between Laurelwood Drive and Aston View Lane with a 12-inch diameter water main. This 12-inch diameter water main will complete a vital system loop between two existing 12-inch diameter water mains for Cleves and Miami Township, reduce aging of water and improve water turnover with better system flow, velocities and pressures. The new water system is expected to provide acceptable minimum pressures during the summer in this high ground area. Customer taps will be reinstalled with new meters along East State Road and in easement areas. Old lead services from the 1920s along East State Road will be abandoned and replaced and meet current Ohio EPA material specifications.

On St. Annes Avenue, the Village proposes to construct approximately 2,000 linear feet of new 12-inch diameter water main for the purpose of completing a vital system loop that was started in 1990 between two existing 12-inch diameter water mains. Any customer taps found will be reinstalled with new meters. This proposed water main will be installed within existing public right-of-way.

All water mains will be installed in accordance with Cleves, Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW), Hamilton County and Ohio EPA standards. A ductile iron water main encased in polyethylene wrap will be constructed to Village specifications and standards. The water mains have been sized for current usage and moderate allowance for future growth, and to convey significant water supply for the Cleves and Hooven communities.

#### E. Estimated Project Costs

The total construction cost of this project is estimated to be \$675,000, all of which is expected to come from a loan administered through Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA), which provides financial assistance for the planning, design and construction of improvements to community water systems and non-profit, non-community public water systems. Through the WSRLA, the Village of Cleves qualifies for a small system, long-term rate loan, which, for May 2015, is 1.49 percent. Compared to the interest rates that are available from conventional

financing (3.26 percent for May 2015), Cleves will save approximately \$141,000 by financing through the WSRLA.

According to the 2007 to 2011 American Community Survey, the median household income (MHI) for the Village of Cleves, with a population of 3,167, is \$55,238. According to the 2013 Sewer and Water Rate Survey, annual residential water rates, based on usages of 7,756 gallons per month, are \$389. This represents an allocation of approximately 0.70 percent of the MHI for water usage services in the Village of Cleves, which is considerably lower than the Ohio average of 1.2 percent (the 2008 state average annual user charge for water supply services as a percentage of the 2000 Ohio MHI). On this basis, Ohio EPA has determined that the capital costs of this proposed project appear to be affordable for an average residential customer of the Cleves water system. As a result, no adverse economic impacts on local residential users are anticipated.

#### F. Proposed Project Schedule

The Village of Cleves expects the construction of the proposed project will begin in June 2015 and will take 12 months to complete. The initial loan repayment to the WSRLA program will be in either July or January, one year following construction completion.

#### G. Public Participation

The Village of Cleves has discussed this project at its regular board and City Council meetings, both of which are open to the public. Resident complaint letters regarding line breakages and public meeting participation have shown strong indication of support for the replacement and upsizing of water lines. To date, neither the Village nor Ohio EPA is aware of any public controversy associated with this project.

Ohio EPA will issue a copy of its Limited Environmental Review decision and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to interested parties. Supporting documentation for the decision is available for public inspection, upon request, from the Village of Cleves and Ohio EPA's central office. Furthermore, the LER and FONSI will be available for public inspection on the Village's website and under the WSRLA tab on Ohio EPA's website at <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/Home.aspx>.

#### H. Interagency Coordination

The proposed project has been reviewed to determine the effect, if any, on properties either listed or eligible for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places, and on threatened and endangered species. Based on the information available and the scope and location of the project, Ohio EPA determined that impacts to either historic places or threatened and endangered species are not likely. The applicant is aware that should the nature of the project change in such a way that impacts to either historic places or threatened and endangered species is possible, additional interagency coordination may be required to mitigate those effects.

## I. Conclusion

Because the proposed project meets certain minimum conditions and will not either individually, cumulatively over time or in conjunction with other federal, state or private actions have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human or natural environment, a Limited Environmental Review is warranted. More specifically, these conditions cover actions in communities with an existing public water system where minor upgrades and/or minor expansion of existing water treatment and distribution systems are proposed, including, but not limited to, minor rehabilitation of existing facilities; functional replacement of existing mechanical equipment or structures; and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. In addition, the proposed project also meets the following criteria for a LER:

- *It will have no significant adverse environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation* because the construction footprint is relatively small and the entire project is located in previously-disturbed roadway areas where no sensitive environmental features are located;
- *It will have no adverse effect on high value environmental resources* because no such resources are present within the project area;
- *It is cost-effective* because it will eliminate costs associated with repairs and maintenance on existing lines that are old and break frequently through strategic replacement of old or deteriorated water mains;
- *It is not a controversial action* because the project will not result in direct, adverse impacts on the environment or on the average residential water user of Cleves, since the City does not anticipate that the proposed project will result in any water rate increases specifically intended to pay for this project;
- *It will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, nor 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* because it only involves the replacement of existing water lines and the construction of new lines to complete a service loop;
- *It 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* because there will be no point source discharges and any non-point source discharges during construction will be minimized with sediment and erosion control best management practices; and
- *It will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population* because the project is primarily intended to functionally replace existing water lines and eliminate dead-end lines through the creation of system loops.

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 district by providing improved water service that is safe and reliable for its customers.

J. **For further information, please contact**

Rahel S. Babb  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
50 W Town Street, Suite 700  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049  
(614) 644-3711  
[rahel.babb@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:rahel.babb@epa.ohio.gov)





