



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

November 10, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Columbus – Franklin County
Dublin Rd. Water Plant Basin Clarifier Rehab
Loan number: FS390274-0312**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water treatment plant improvement project in Columbus 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, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Name: Columbus – Dublin Rd. Water Plant Basin Clarifier Rehab

Applicant: City of Columbus
910 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43215

Loan number: FS390274-0312

Project Summary

The City of Columbus in Franklin County has requested \$18,243,000 from the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for improvements to the clarifier basins at the Dublin Road Water Plant.

History and Existing Conditions

The City of Columbus Division of Water operates three large municipal water treatment plants: Hap Cremean Water Plant, Dublin Road Water Plant, and Parsons Avenue Water Plant. The three facilities are interconnected by the water distribution system, but each is unable to maintain water to the entire distribution system alone. The Dublin Road Water Plant (DRWP) was constructed in phases between 1967 and 1975, with various elements of the plant upgraded over the years. The DRWP is a surface water treatment plant that draws water from the Scioto River downstream of the Griggs, O’Shaughnessy, and John Doutt Reservoirs. The approved capacity of the DRWP is 80 million gallons per day (MGD) and the annual average distribution system demand is approximately 49 MGD. The DRWP serves approximately 400,000 customers within a service area consisting of downtown Columbus, western, and southwestern Franklin County.

Clarifier mechanisms and flocculation drives are integral components of the water treatment process. Each clarification basin has four clarifier mechanisms. The current clarifier equipment for basins number 1 through 3 were rehabilitated in 1994 and 1996, though some elements date back to when the DRWP was constructed in 1974. Each flocculation channel has four flocculation mechanisms. The clarifier mechanisms and flocculation drives are reaching the end of their useful life. Drive and corner sweep mechanisms are difficult to maintain and some basin equipment is experiencing severe corrosion.

Project Description

This project will improve the clarifier mechanisms and flocculation drives at the Dublin Road Water Plant. Improvements in each clarifier basin will include replacement of four clarifier drive mechanisms, replacement of corner sweep mechanisms, rehabilitation of clarifier rake arms, and replacement of miscellaneous piping, supports, electrical equipment, and other clarifier basin appurtenances. Flocculation channel improvements will involve replacement of water drive components (motors/gear boxes/bull gears/drive chains) and providing new power and control conduit/wire. This project will help extend the life of the facility so that it can continue to provide a reliable source of water to Columbus and surrounding communities for many years to come.

The construction footprint for this project will remain within the confines of the existing water treatment plant, thereby minimizing effects on environmental resources. The contractor is responsible for best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation and minimize the creation of dust during construction.

Maps of the project location are provided in the exhibits below.

Implementation

Project Costs

Columbus plans to borrow \$18,243,000 from the WSRLA. During the 20-year loan period, Columbus will save approximately \$2,537,058 by using WSRLA dollars at the standard rate of 0.70%, compared to the market rate of 1.95%

Local Economy

The current Columbus residential water bill is approximately \$472/year. Projected residential water bills with the implementation of this and other associated water projects project are expected to increase to approximately \$514/year, or approximately 1% of median household income (MHI) of Columbus, which is \$49,478.

By using WSRLA financing for this project, Columbus has minimized the economic impact on customers.

Project Schedule

The anticipated loan award will occur in December 2020. Construction will start in the spring of 2021 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

Public Participation

A public notice was posted on the City of Columbus' Public Utilities webpage detailing the proposed construction project. Contact information was provided for any public questions or concerns. Reviews of the respective environmental resources were completed by Ohio EPA, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA). The review agency does not oppose the project.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> (Under the "What's New" tab, scroll to: "Documents Available for Review and Comment – WSRLA Documents for Review and Comment") and will provide it upon request to interested parties. Information supporting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) is available from the project contact named below.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action for the replacement of existing treatment works. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

- *Has no significant environmental effect, no effect on high value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation.*

Construction for the project is limited to the previously disturbed footprint of the existing

DRWP, which lacks important environmental features. Standard construction best management practices will be required to control dust, sediment runoff, noise, and maintain safety. Although construction will occur within the floodplain, no new structures will be installed above the existing grade and the contractor will commit to take all necessary precautions to protect project work and equipment against flooding occurrences.

- *Is cost-effective and not controversial.*
The proposed project is cost-effective as it involves seeking replacements to existing equipment so that efficiency can be improved. Operation and maintenance costs will decrease at the completion of this project from the decrease in required labor and maintenance. DEFA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project that will improve the treatment and distribution of Columbus' drinking water.
- *Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; will not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters; will not 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.*
This project involves the replacement of equipment within the footprint of the existing treatment plant. The project will not create a new source of water withdrawals, nor provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population.

Based upon the available planning information for this project and the materials presented within this LER, Ohio EPA concludes that the proposed project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to any environmental features. 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 such as surface waters, coastal zones, riparian areas, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species.

This project will provide improvements so the Dublin Road Water Plant will operate more efficiency and continue to provide a safe delivery of potable water to the citizens of the city.

Contact

Kristin Parrish
Ohio EPA-DEFA
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049
(614) 644-3662
kristin.parrish@epa.ohio.gov

Exhibit 1: Project Location Map



Exhibit 2: Project Location Map

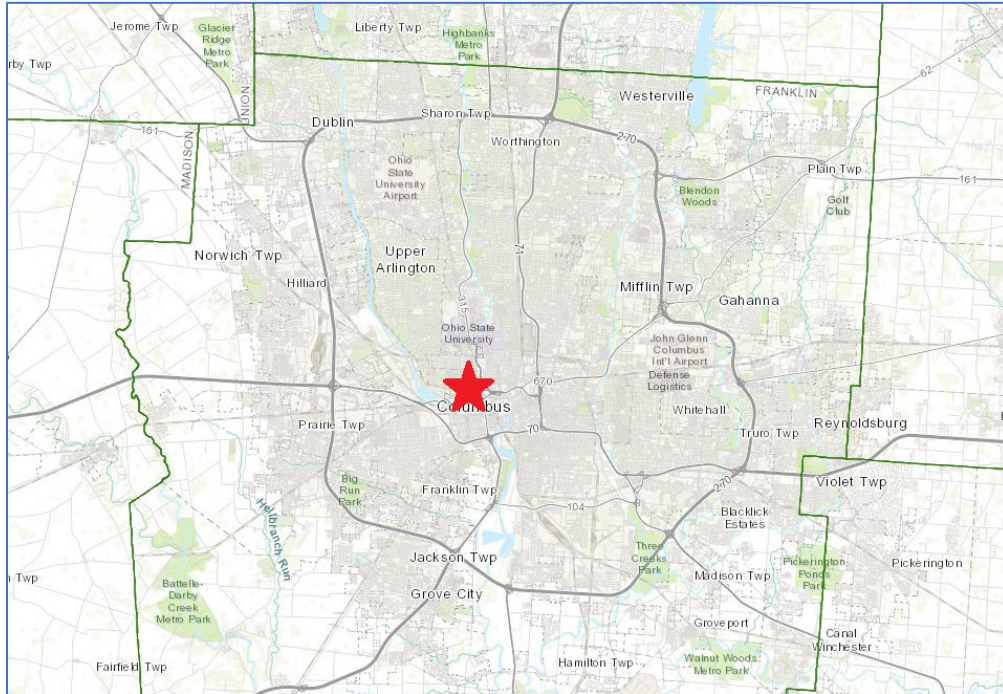


Exhibit 3: Project Location Map



Exhibit 4: Dublin Rd. Water Plant Basins

