



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

September 28, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Roseville – Muskingum County
Water Meter Replacement
Loan number: FS390809-0010**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a drinking water distribution project in Muskingum and Perry counties 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

Project: Water Meter Replacement

Applicant: Jeffrey Slack, Village Administrator
Village of Roseville
107 North Main Street
Roseville, Ohio 43777

Loan Number: FS390809-0010

Project Summary

The Village of Roseville has applied for funding from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for the Water Meter Replacement project. The project is intended to eliminate meter inaccuracies, help identify and reduce water losses within the aged distribution system, and change to radio-read meters to reduce labor and equipment cost. The total estimated loan for this project is \$806,391, with construction scheduled to begin November 2020 and to be completed in six months.

History & Existing Conditions

Roseville, located in Muskingum and Perry counties (see Figure 1), currently supplies water from its ground water treatment plant (WTP) located near the village park, and serves approximately 1,900 residents. In 2019 Roseville came to an agreement to purchase drinking water through an interconnection with the Muskingum County Water Department (MCWD). This agreement was necessary due to Roseville's aged WTP needing updates and repairs totaling approximately \$1,700,000 to remain a viable source of potable drinking water, and due to the scheduled retirement of key staff and the need for their replacement. Therefore, Roseville determined that it would be more cost-effective to purchase water from MCWD to supply the Roseville service area and decommission the existing Roseville WTP. The WSRLA funded Leffler-Baughman Run Roads and Village of Roseville Water Extension project was undertaken to make this water interconnection and began construction in the autumn of 2019. The interconnection project is currently scheduled to be completed in October 2020.

Roseville's current, aged water meters often provide inaccurate results and are not able to assist the village in identifying the occurrence and location of water main leaks. This leads to water losses and inaccurate billing. The manual read meters also require additional time and staffing to operate.

Project Description

The proposed Water Meter Replacement project will install radio-read water meters in new subsurface meter pits, include a hand-held meter reader, and reestablish service lines and reconnections. The project also includes restoration of construction locations which will include excavation in previously disturbed rights-of-way (streets, sidewalks, driveways, and areas of buried utilities) that support no wetlands, forested areas, or aquatic habitat.

Implementation

The total estimated loan amount for the project is \$806,391. Roseville proposes to borrow the entire project amount from the WSRLA. The project service area qualifies for the small systems WSRLA below-market interest rate on 20-year loans, which in September is 0.03 percent. Borrowing at 0.03 percent will save Roseville approximately \$153,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 1.78 percent.

Debt for the project will be repaid from water debt service without rate increases, above standard inflationary increases, for the specific areas served by the improvements. The local median household income is \$34,784. Under the water rates that are effective in 2020 and, based on average usage of 530 cubic feet of water per month, the average residential water bill is \$49.43 per month, or \$593 per year. This represents 1.7 percent of the MHI, which is considered affordable.

Public Participation

The Water Meter Replacement project has been discussed at village council meetings that were open to the public and no opposition has been reported. A public notice announcing the availability of this Limited Environmental Review will be posted on Village of Roseville and Ohio EPA – Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance websites. Given the limited potential environmental impact of the project, the lack of a rate increase and the lack of property assessments, this is considered adequate public participation.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing water treatment and distribution system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing water meters and equipment. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

- **will have no significant adverse environmental effect**, since sensitive resources such as floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeological or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species are not present in the project area.
- **does not require extensive specific impact mitigation**, as the proposed project involves the replacement of existing water distribution lines located in road rights-of-way where the roads will be restored to their pre-project grade and condition.
- **will have no adverse effect on high value environmental resources**, as the project area includes a developed residential area, with asphalt roads and numerous existing utilities, so no high value environmental resources are present there.
- **is not a controversial action**, as user rates will not be increased as a result of this project, adverse impacts to environmental resources are unlikely to occur, and Ohio EPA is unaware of any public opposition to the project.
- **is cost-effective**, as replacement of the water distribution lines will help to minimize water losses and ensure continuous potable drinking water supply to residents and businesses located in the project area at a reasonable cost.

- **does not involve a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water, involve any increase in volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or new facilities, create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from existing sources; or provide capacity to serve a design population substantially greater (thirty percent) than the current design population,** as no discharge points or pollutant loading will be part of the project. The project does not require the expansion of MCWD's water treatment facility beyond its current capacity or require the addition of a supplementary water supplier, so it will not require a change in water withdrawal. Little population change is anticipated during the 20-year planning period.

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 project service area by replacing aged water service structures and will help reduce water system costs by minimizing/eliminating water loss.

Contact info

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Figure 1: Project general area, in red