

Draft Environmental Assessment
Section 340 Bud Alpoca
Water Upgrade Project
Wyoming County, West Virginia



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
Huntington, West Virginia
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Executive Summary

The Eastern Wyoming County Public Service District is proposing a source of potable water to 170 residential and small commercial customers in the communities of Bud and Alpoca, West Virginia. Potable water is proposed by means of the Eastern Wyoming County Public Service District's existing water treatment plant. Residents and business within the Bud and Alpoca areas currently obtain their water from an old aging (formally privately owned) and failing system. This system, which includes service to a consolidated elementary and middle school, is in extremely poor condition and has a history of safe drinking water violations.

The Proposed Action Alternative would entail constructing approximately 9,350 linear feet of 6-inch and smaller diameter water lines, fire hydrants, valves, other related appurtenances, and one booster station. The waterline upgrade would follow local roads and connect to the existing waterline along West Virginia State Route 10.

The proposed project involves a partnership agreement between the Eastern Wyoming County Public Service District and the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), established under the authority of Section 340 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law No. 102-580) (WRDA 1992). This program provides environmental assistance to non-Federal interests in southern West Virginia. Assistance under this program may be in the form of design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development, including projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, water supply, storage, treatment, and distribution facilities, and surface water resource protection and development. Funding, as established under Section 340, shall be shared 75% Federal and 25% Non-Federal (State and Local). This Environmental Assessment is prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Corps implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2.

The Draft Environmental Assessment has concluded there are no significant impacts to the human environment associated with the implementation of the proposed Bud Alpoca Water Upgrade Project.



SECTION 340 BUD ALPOCA
WATER UPGRADE PROJECT
WYOMING COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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The brief and concise nature of this document is consistent with the 40 CFR requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to reduce paperwork and delay by eliminating duplication with existing environmental documentation, incorporating pertinent material by reference and by emphasizing interagency cooperation. The majority of data collection and analysis in this document was performed by E.L. Robinson in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Background

This draft Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential environmental impacts of the Bud/Alpoca water system upgrade project as proposed by the Eastern Wyoming County Public Service District. The purpose of the EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

1.2 Purpose, Need, and Authorization

The purpose of the proposed project is to upgrade the existing failing water system and provide water service to the Wyoming County communities of Bud and Alpoca. Residents and business within the Bud and Alpoca area currently obtain their water from an aging (formally privately owned) and failing system. This system, which includes service to a consolidated elementary and middle school, is in extremely poor condition and has a history of safe drinking water violations. The need for the water system upgrade in the proposed area is to provide residents with a safe and reliable potable water supply.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the Eastern Wyoming County Public Service District and the Corps established under the authority of Section 340 of WRDA 1992, which provides authority for the Corps to establish a program to provide environmental assistance to non-Federal interests in southern West Virginia. This law provides design and construction assistance of water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in southern West Virginia, including projects for waste water treatment and related facilities, water supply, storage, treatment, and distribution facilities, and surface water resource protection and development.

This EA is prepared pursuant to NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Corps implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action Alternative (PAA)

The PAA would provide a source of potable water by means of the Eastern Wyoming County Public Service District's existing water treatment plant to 170 residential and commercial customers. The PAA consists of the construction of approximately 9,350 linear feet of 6-inch



and smaller diameter water lines, fire hydrants, valves, and other related appurtenances. The waterline upgrade would connect to the existing waterline along West Virginia State Route 10 in the Bud and Aploca communities. The waterline extension would follow local roads and connect to the existing waterline (Appendix A).

2.2 No Action Alternative (NAA)

Under the NAA, the Corps would not provide funding for the project. Additionally, the Eastern Wyoming County Public Service District would not expand/upgrade their existing water system and the communities would continue to experience the problems described above in Section 1.2.

The failing system is targeted for replacement by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health. However, according to the Wyoming County Public Service District, funding for this replacement is not available for the foreseeable future. Therefore, it is not reasonable to assume the system would be replaced under the NAA.

This alternative was considered unacceptable due to health and safety hazards for the communities in the proposed project area.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES DISMISSED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

3.1 Bottled or Trucked Water Alternative

This alternative involves providing bottled and trucked water to each of the 170 individual homes and businesses in the affected area. This alternative would not require additional construction or upgrades which would minimize land disturbance and erosion. However, the logistics of delivering bottled or trucked water over a long period of time, the inconvenience for the customer to utilize such water for cleaning, bathing, etc., increased operation and maintenance cost would have to be maintained for home storage, pumping, and chlorinated units, increased risk of contamination due to water handling and delivery systems, and no fire protection makes this alternative impractical. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

3.2 New Wells and/or Home Treatment Alternative

This alternative would require the Eastern Wyoming County Public Service District to construct individual wells and/or home treatment units for 170 homes and businesses in the project area. This alternative would decrease construction of water mains and other distribution components. Disadvantages associated with this alternative include increased construction at individual homes and businesses which would decrease usable acreage and increase erosion. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs would be greater due to the large number of individual systems, discharge units would have to be obtained, monitored, and renewed for each of the home treatment unit backwash water discharges, the increased probability of pollution due to multiple discharges into area streams, and small home lots would have an increased probability of septic system cross contamination.



Home treatment units are not reported to be completely successful at removing all the contaminants reported to exist in wells within the proposed project area. Also, home treatment units would have to be maintained and replaced over the period of time until ground water quality significantly improves. The replacement of wells within the proposed project area is not a feasible solution. Residents have indicated poor ground water quality is prevalent within the affected area. New wells drilled would likely produce the same poor quality water as current wells. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

3.3 New Treatment Plant Alternative

This alternative involves the construction of a new 100 gallons per minute (GPM) or larger water treatment plant to serve the project area. This alternative would decrease detention time in the distribution system which could decrease disinfectant by-product production. Disadvantages associated with this alternative include greater O&M costs due to the loss of economies of scale, increase the possibility of erosion and a backwash water discharge permit would have to be obtained, monitored, and renewed for the new treatment plant. Furthermore, this alternative would result in an additional plant backwash water discharge into an area stream which would increase the probability of pollution. Additionally, many of the area streams are small and ground water quality in the area is poor which could result in source water quantity issues and increase the complexity of treatment. Therefore, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND CONSEQUENCES

4.1 Location

The affected area is the Wyoming County communities of Bud and Aploca. The waterline extension would follow local roads including George Branch Road, Valley Springs Road, Bud Hollow Road, Karo Hollow Road, and connect to an existing waterline along West Virginia State Route 10.

4.2 Land Use

Land use in the vicinity of the PAA is rural, consisting of residential and small commercial properties. The vast majority of the proposed water lines would be constructed in areas along shoulders and ditches of existing roads. As a result, the water lines would be installed in areas disturbed by the construction and maintenance of these features. After installation of the waterline, existing conditions would be re-established.

The booster station (pump station) would be located on land that appears to have been already modified. Mechanically created push piles and exposed sediments suggest this area has also been previously disturbed and now lays fallow with recent trash and debris at the surface. The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (WVSHPO) agreed that this area was previously disturbed. Following installation of the booster station, this area would be reseeded and maintained, resulting in an improved condition.



Therefore, no adverse impacts to land use are expected as a result of either the PAA or NAA.

4.3 Climate

Executive Order (E.O.) 13656 requires Federal actions to address climate change. The Guyandotte Watershed's mid-latitude position makes it susceptible to highly variable weather throughout the year. The watershed's climate is greatly influenced by oceanic and atmospheric interactions. The watershed experiences seasonal weather patterns throughout the year, with climatic conditions typical of summer, fall, winter, and spring seasons for the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Regions of the United States. Variability in weather tends to be greater during the late winter, spring, and fall seasons within the watershed. Summers are usually characterized by warm to hot weather with periods of high humidity. Winters within the watershed are typically mild, with areas in the headwaters of the basin at higher elevations experiencing slightly harsher winters and greater snowfall. Fall is typically the driest season within the watershed, while spring is typically the wettest.

The PAA would not involve any activity that could affect the environment in regard to climate change. This region is not projected to experience severe drought conditions and is instead expected to experience more precipitation in the future. As a result, the condition of the PAA would not likely be influenced by future climate change. For the same reasons, there are also no impacts expected with respect to climate as a result of the NAA.

4.4 Terrestrial Habitat

The majority of the PAA would be constructed on previously disturbed area, including road right-of-ways; therefore, potential impacts to vegetation would be minimal and temporary. Construction activities associated with waterline extension would take place in previously disturbed areas along existing roads. The areas would be graded and reseeded with grasses in order to be returned to pre-construction conditions upon completion of construction activities. Only short-term temporary impacts during construction are anticipated to occur from the PAA.

As the selection of the NAA would mean entail no changes to the project area, there are no impacts to terrestrial habitat anticipated as part of the NAA.

4.5 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988 requires Federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their proposed actions to floodplains. In order to determine the PAA's potential floodplain impact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was reviewed and the majority of the proposed project area is outside of the Base Flood plain or that area that has a 1-percent chance or greater of having a flood in any given year. (<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones>). As the proposed water distribution system would be buried below grade it would not result in any change in grade or elevation. The booster station (pump station) would be located outside of the Base Flood plain. While the proposed water distribution system would potentially serve some residents or businesses located within the Base Flood plain, it is unlikely to induce further development as



Wyoming County population trends indicate a general decline. For example, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population estimate for Wyoming County in 2010 was 25,708 people and the 2013 population estimate for Wyoming County was 23,019.

Therefore, no adverse impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the PAA or NAA.

4.6 Prime and Unique Farmland

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requires Federal agencies to minimize the conversion of prime and unique farmland to non-agricultural uses. Prime or unique farmlands do not exist within the project area. The project area follows road right-of-ways, and previously disturbed areas. Based upon review of the project, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) determined that the project would not impact Prime, Statewide Important Farmland and a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating does not need to be completed.

Based upon the NRCS determination, the PAA would have no impact on Prime or Unique, Statewide, or Locally important farmland (Appendix B).

There are no impacts to Prime and Unique Farmland anticipated as part of the NAA.

4.7 Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality

The Upper Guyandotte River is listed on West Virginia's 2012 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters along with Baker's Creek tributary that is adjacent to the proposed project. Implementation of the PAA would not result in any new discharges of a pollutant. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used throughout the project to prevent construction runoff. Silt fencing and appropriate restoration would be part of project construction and detailed in contract documents.

The PAA includes two stream crossings of two indirect tributaries to the Guyandotte River. The two stream crossings would be constructed utilizing open cut methods. All in-stream work is to be performed during periods of low stream flows and in accordance with guidelines of the WV Public Land Corporation and the Corps. Construction activity associated with the stream crossings would fall under Nationwide Permit (NWP) #12 Utility Line Activities (Appendix B) provided the applicant comply with all terms and condition, including Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) conditions approved by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection for the NWP.

Potential localized and short-term impacts to water quality may occur as a result of construction of the PAA. Water quality in the Baker's Creek tributary would remain impaired. However, with implementation of BMPs, such as erosion control and compliance with the terms of Nationwide Permit #12, and timely reseeded of disturbed areas, impacts from the PAA would be minimal and temporary.

The standard open cut method would be utilized at two stream crossings would result in minor and temporary impacts to aquatic habitat as a result of construction of the PAA.



Under the NAA, water quality in the project area would continue to be negatively impacted.

4.8 Wetlands

National Wetland Inventory Maps (NWI) were reviewed for the proposed project area and a site reconnaissance was conducted to determine validity of NWI Maps. NWI maps indicated that there are no wetlands adjacent to the project area. The site reconnaissance also indicated no wetlands are located within the proposed project area. No impacts to wetlands are anticipated as part of the PAA or NAA.

4.9 Wild and Scenic Rivers

No designated State Wild or Scenic Rivers are present within the Project Area. Therefore, no impacts to these resources are anticipated as part of the PAA or NAA.

4.10 Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW)

A Phase 1 HTRW Environmental Site Assessment was conducted for the Bud Alpoca Wayer System Upgrade Project to identify environmental conditions and to identify the potential presence of HTRW contamination located in the project's construction work limits. Below are the following Phase 1 HTRW findings:

The Corps HTRW staff determined the Phase 1 HTRW is sufficient with exception of the proposed booster station property. The sponsor was unable to locate historical land use for the booster station property. Nevertheless, the Corps HTRW staff still agrees that existing information is sufficient to indicate that significant impacts to the human environment are not anticipated due to exposure or release of HTRW from the PAA.

The sponsor is aware of the potential liability in purchasing the property should problems be uncovered in the future. Therefore, insignificant impacts to HTRW are anticipated with the PAA.

The NAA would not result in ground disturbing activities, and would not disturb areas of HTRW contamination; therefore, there are no HTRW impacts associated with the NAA.

4.11 Cultural Resources

Coordination with the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (WVSHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was initiated by E.L. Robinson Engineering. WV SHPO determined there are no architectural or archeological resources within the area which would be impacted by the proposed project.

In a letter dated May 30, 2014, WVSHPO concurred with the determination that no further consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA is necessary (Appendix B). The consultation determined that the proposed project would have no impact on cemetery resources adjacent to



the project area; therefore, no additional consultation is necessary for this resource. There are no architectural resources eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places that would be impacted by this project; therefore, no additional consultation is necessary for architectural resources. The consultation also determined that proposed ground disturbing activities are located in previously disturbed areas and/or existing road right-of-ways; therefore, no archaeological resources are located in the project area.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps has made the determination that no historic properties would be affected by the PAA.

Under the NAA, it is possible that residences or businesses may be abandoned or otherwise relocated. It is unknown if any of these buildings or structures qualify as historic properties, but if so, impacts to historic properties associated with neglect or demolition might occur under the NAA.

4.12 Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website, there are two listed species in Wyoming County, West Virginia. They are the Red Knot Bird (*Calidris canutus rufa*) and the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalists*), listed as proposed threatened and endangered, respectively. In correspondence dated April 2, 2014, the USFWS stated “we have made a ‘no effect’ determination that the project would not affect federally listed endangered or threatened species” (Appendix B). No further Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act is required.

No impacts to threatened or endangered species are anticipated to occur from the PAA or the NAA.

4.13 Air Quality

According to West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), Wyoming County, West Virginia is classified as “in attainment” (maintaining applicable standards) for all criteria pollutants. Emissions from construction equipment would occur during the construction period. Contractors would operate all equipment in accordance with local, state and federal regulations. The PAA is exempted by 40 CFR Part 93.153 from making a conformity determination, since estimated emissions from construction equipment would not be expected to exceed *deminimis* levels, direct emissions of a criteria pollutant, or its precursors. Any impacts would be short-term, localized, and would occur only during construction phase activities. Impacts to air quality under the PAA would be temporary during construction, and minor.

There would be no impacts to air quality as part of the NAA.

4.14 Noise

Noise associated with the PAA would be limited to that generated during construction. The noise associated with construction would be short in duration and would only occur during daylight hours. Noise is measured as Day Night average noise levels (DNL) in “A-weighted”



decibels that the human ear is most sensitive to (dBA). There are no Federal standards for allowable noise levels. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Guidelines, DNLs below 65 dBA are normally acceptable levels of exterior noise in residential areas. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) denotes a DNL above 65 dBA as the level of significant noise impact. Several other agencies, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, use a DNL criterion of 55 dBA as the threshold for defining noise impacts in suburban and rural residential areas. According to Dr. Paul Schomer in his 2001 Whitepaper, while there are numerous thresholds for acceptable noise in residential areas, research suggests an area's current noise environment, which has experienced noise in the past may reasonably expect to tolerate a level of noise about 5 dBA higher than the general guidelines. The Corps Safety and Health Requirements Manual provides criteria for temporary permissible noise exposure levels (see Table 1 below), for consideration of hearing protection or the need to administer sound reduction controls.

Duration/day (hours)	Noise level (dBA)
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1.5	102
1	105

Construction noise would be similar to that of farm equipment and other small machinery used in the local area. A backhoe, end loader, road grader and/or vibratory roller are examples of equipment that is likely to be used during construction. Each emits noise levels around 85 dBA at 45 feet. Construction equipment would be operated for approximately 8 hours, generating noise during the daytime (approximately 7am-6pm) when many residents are at work; therefore, a reasonable exposure time of two hours would be expected during the time residents may be home during the day. Peak outdoor noise levels ranging from 78-90 dBA would occur during the time in which equipment is directly in front of or in proximity to homes (within 25-100 feet). A maximum noise exposure of approximately 98 dBA, for one hour could occur if equipment were within 10 feet of homes. The noise projections do not account for screening objects, such as trees, outbuildings or other objects that muffle and reduce the noise being emitted. The outdoor construction noise would be further muffled inside the home. While the construction noise generated would be considered unacceptable according to HUD and FAA standards, these limited exposures and time intervals are still within allowable Corps safety levels. Further, they are similar to typical neighborhood noise generated by gas powered lawnmowers in the local area, which could range from 90-95 dBA at three feet and 70-75 dBA at 100 feet. Residents being exposed to these noise levels would occur if/when residents are home and outdoors. Elevated noise levels proximate to homes should be limited to a few days and human exposure to such noise levels would likely be limited to a few hours.



Due to daytime construction and the short and limited duration of elevated noise levels associated with the PAA, impacts from noise to local residences would be temporary and minor. There would be no change in noise with the NAA.

4.15 Socioeconomic Conditions

Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 requires Federal actions to address environmental justice in minority populations and low-income populations. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2013 population estimate for Wyoming County, West Virginia was 23,019 and does not contain significant minority populations. The 2012 census indicates Wyoming County is 98% white and has a median household income of \$36,010 compared with \$40,400 for the state of West Virginia. Individuals residing in the county below the poverty level is 19.1% compared to 17.6% statewide.

Service provided by the water distribution lines and appurtenances would serve approximately 170 customers whose present source of water consists of an aging and failing water system. Implementation of the PAA would provide the communities with safe potable water service. The most immediate environmental impact would be an increase in the reliable and safe drinking water for residents in the proposed project area. No homes or buildings would be impacted by the proposed project; therefore, the PAA meets the directive of EO 12898 by avoiding any disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low income populations.

Under the NAA, impacts to low income populations might continue, if safe potable water is not provided.

4.16 Aesthetics

The project area is rural, consisting of residential and small commercial properties. Temporary disturbance of the local aesthetics would be anticipated during construction of the water line extension; however after construction, the contractor would be required to fill, re-grade, and restore excavated sites to original conditions.

The booster station (pump station) would be located on unmaintained lot that has been used for dumping. Under the PPA, this lot would house a booster station (pump station) and be maintained.

Neither the PAA nor NAA would significantly impact local aesthetics.

4.17 Transportation and Traffic

The proposed water extension would be located along local roads that connect to the existing waterline along WV State Route 10. Existing traffic patterns in the area consist of local residents' access to homes and small businesses. Construction of the PAA in and along existing road rights-of-way would involve some delays and potential detours in the normal traffic flow. If detours would occur, the distance associated with road detours would be relatively short and



temporary in nature. Construction on or near road surfaces would be in compliance with West Virginia Department of Highways (WVDOH) guidelines. All appropriate WVDOH guidelines for traffic control would be implemented. Impacts anticipated to occur from the PAA would be minimal and temporary.

No impacts to transportation and traffic are anticipated to occur from the NAA.

4.18 Health and Safety

The PAA has been designed to eliminate failing water supplies and provide reliable service, thereby minimizing health hazards to drinking water in the communities of Bud and Alpoca. As stated previously, residents in the communities of Bud and Alpoca are on an inadequate aging and failing water system that has a history of safe drinking water violations. Providing a safe source of drinking water is necessary to prevent further health and safety problems. The PAA would allow Eastern Wyoming County PSD to achieve compliance with Federal and state regulations and would provide an overall health benefit to the serviced communities by providing safe drinking water. Therefore, the PAA is anticipated to have a long term beneficial impact on health and safety.

Under the NAA, current unsafe drinking water in the proposed project area would continue, perpetuating health and safety concerns.

4.19 Cumulative Effects

The Corps must consider the cumulative effects of the proposed project on the environment as stipulated in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Cumulative effects are "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such actions". Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR Part 1508.7 Council on Environmental Quality [CEQ] Regulations).

The cumulative effects analysis is based on the potential effects of the proposed project when added to similar impacts from other projects in the region. An inherent part of the cumulative effects analysis is the uncertainty surrounding actions that have not yet been fully developed. The CEQ regulations provide for the inclusion of uncertainties in the analysis and states that "when an agency is evaluating reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effects on the human environment...and there is incomplete or unavailable information, the agency shall always make clear that such information is lacking" (40 CFR 1502.22).

Temporal and geographical limits for this project must be established in order to frame the analysis. These limits can vary by the resources that are affected. The construction of the waterline would have temporary and insignificant negative impacts of the environment. Resources which would show long term beneficial effects from the project would be health and safety and the quality of drinking water. The temporal limits for assessment of this impact would initiate in 1972 with the passage of the Clean Water Act and end 50 years after



completion of this project. The geographical extent would be broadened to consider effects beyond the PAA. The geographical extent considered is the Upper Guyandotte River watershed.

The Barkers Creek tributary in the project area of the Upper Guyandotte River Watershed is listed on West Virginia's 2012 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters due to CNA-biological, iron, and manganese. Inadequate sewage treatments, failing septic systems, straight-pipe discharge, etc, are some of the leading causes of impaired water. In the past, The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) completed a Guyandotte River Basin Plan in 1987. The Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association was founded in 2002 in response to water quality problems that have negatively affected communities within the watershed. In 2006, the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association along with funding from the WVDEP, published the Upper Guyandotte River Watershed Basin Plan. The goal of the plan is to reduce nonpoint sources of metals and fecal coliform to improve water quality standards. Currently, the plan proposes to secure funding and update remaining community wastewater systems and onsite individual water treatment systems in the Baker's Creek area by 2020. Impairment of the Upper Guyandotte River Watershed is expected to continue but if the proposed actions of the plan are implemented, it would promote a cleaner, healthier watershed. Water quality standards and regulations are expected to remain as stringent today as in the future.

Section 4.0 documents the existing environment and potential environmental effects of the PAA and NAA with respect to existing conditions. The effects, as discussed beforehand, are localized and minor. Past actions that may result in similar effects may include upgrading of other linear utilities in the watershed. In scoping cumulative effects issues, no resources were identified as having a potential to be significantly affected. Only minor and temporary impacts to ecological resources would be sustained with the implementation of the PAA. These resources would be fully reestablished upon completion of construction.

The availability of Federal funds through programs, such as the 340 Program, to assist communities with installation and construction of water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in southern West Virginia, is an additional benefit. The significance of this action on health and safety would be positive. Given the current program is in place for the foreseeable future and the overall beneficial effect from implementation of the PAA, there is expected to be a positive, though small, cumulative effect on health and safety based on past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions.

5.0 Status of Environmental Compliance

The PAA is in full compliance with all local, state, and Federal statutes as well as Executive Orders. This compliance is documented below in Table 2.



Statute/Executive Order	Full	Partial	N/A
National Environmental Policy Act (considered partial until the FONSI is signed)		X	
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	X		
Endangered Species Act	X		
Clean Water Act	X		
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	X		
Clean Air Act	X		
National Historic Preservation Act	X		
Archeological Resources Protection Act			NA
Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act	X		
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act	X		
Toxic Substances Control Act	X		
Quiet Communities Act	X		
Farmland Protection Act	X		
Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management	X		
Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands	X		
Executive Order 12898 Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations	X		

*Anticipated FONSI signature to occur after public review

6.0 REQUIRED COORDINATION

6.1 Agencies Contacted

Direct coordination with the USFWS, NRCS, WVDEP, WVDNR, and the WV SHPO was completed prior to publication of the draft EA. Agency correspondence is included in Appendix B.

6.2 Public Review and Comments

The draft EA and FONSI will be made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, as required under NEPA. A Notice of Availability will be published in the local newspaper, The Independent Herald, advising the public of this documents availability for review and comment. A copy of the draft EA will also be placed in the Wyoming County Public Library and made available on-line at:

<http://www.lrh.Corps.army.mil/Missions/PublicReview.aspx>. The mailing list for the draft EA is located in Appendix C.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Bud and Aploca area's local water system is currently aging and failing. Residents within the communities of Bud and Aploca currently obtain their water from this failing system which



has a history of safe drinking water violations. The proposed project would provide the area with a reliable safe drinking water system. No significant adverse impacts have been identified as a result of implementation of the proposed water system.

Construction would mainly take place on previously disturbed land. Health and safety, as well as drinking water quality benefits, would be realized immediately with project implementation. Effects associated with construction would be minor and temporary. BMPs would be implemented during construction to minimize impacts to residents and the environment. Therefore, the PAA would not be expected to have significant impacts on the human environment.