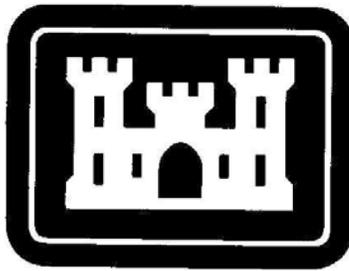


**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGBURG  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, GRAVITY SEWER,  
AND McDOWELL STREET PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT  
SECTION 594 PROJECT  
FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

**U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT  
HUNTINGTON CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA**

**AUGUST 2007**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
Village of Bloomingburg  
Wastewater Treatment Plant, Gravity Sewer, and  
McDowell Street Pump Station Replacement Project  
Fayette County, Ohio**

Responsible Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

Abstract: The Village of Bloomingburg Wastewater Treatment Plant, Gravity Sewer, and McDowell Street Pump Station Replacement Project is located in Fayette County, Ohio. Implementation of the Preferred plan as described herein would result in the replacement and modification of the existing wastewater treatment facility, originally constructed in 1976 and which has reached the end of its useful life, with a new modern, expanded facility designed to meet more stringent effluent requirements imposed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Improvements to the collection and treatment system are proposed to consist of: 1) replacement of the existing 10-inch incoming plant sewer with a new 15-inch sewer; 2) relocation and replacement of the McDowell Street Pump Station, inclusive of 8-inch and 10-inch gravity sewers, two grinder pumps, a valve chamber, 6-inch force main, manholes, standby generator, fencing and turf and pavement restoration; 3) construction of new expanded wastewater treatment facilities adjacent to the existing wastewater treatment facility; and 4) replacement of the existing 8-inch plant outfall conduit with a new 15-inch outfall conduit.

This report and the studies that comprise this report were initiated under Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (PL106-53) as amended.

For additional information, please contact:

Ms. Lisa R. Morgan  
Project Manager  
Huntington District Corps of Engineers  
Ph: 304-399-5545  
Fx: 304-399-5715  
lisa.r.morgan@lrh01.usace.army.mil

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

- Responsible Office: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Environmental Analysis Branch  
502 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Huntington, West Virginia 25701  
(304) 399-5160 (voice)  
(304) 399-5136 (fax)
- Name of Action: Village of Bloomingburg New Wastewater Treatment Plant, Gravity Sewer, and McDowell Street Pump Station Replacement Project, Fayette County, Ohio
- Description: The preferred plan consists of the modification and replacement of the existing wastewater treatment facility to serve the citizens of Bloomingburg, Ohio and which includes the replacement of the plant outfall conduit and the incoming plant gravity sewer and the relocation and replacement of an existing pump station located on McDowell Street. The 250,000 gallon per day wastewater treatment facility would be located along State Route 38, on property owned by the Village of Bloomingburg, adjacent to East Fork Paint Creek.
- Impacts: Project implementation would result in no significant adverse long term impact to those fish and wildlife resources located within the project area. Applicable flora and fauna listed on the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Species and which are located within the project area would not be impacted by this action.
- Temporary impacts on stream water quality may result from fugitive sediment transport; however, measures would be implemented prior to and during construction to abate, through the use of erosion and sediment control measures, any offsite transport of sediment.
- A Phase 1 Cultural Resources Investigation has been completed for the project area. No prehistoric or historic cultural features were identified during the course of the field survey; therefore, it is not anticipated that this action would disturb any significant archaeological or historical sites located within the project area.
- A Limited Phase 1 Hazardous, Toxic, Radioactive Waste (HTRW) investigation has been completed for the project area. The results from this investigation suggest that there are no potential environmental concerns identified that would cause or otherwise contribute to contamination within the project area.
- Implementation of the Preferred Plan would not adversely affect the long term quality of the human or natural environment within the project area.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><u>Section</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION .....	1-1
1.1 Project Background .....	1-1
1.2 Statement of Purpose and Need .....	1-1
1.3 Project Description.....	1-1
1.4 Project Authority .....	1-2
1.5 Other Cooperating Federal Agencies .....	1-2
2.0 PREFERRED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES .....	2-1
2.1 Alternatives Considered in Initial Screening and Eliminated .....	2-1
2.1.1 Operational Changes Within the Existing Plant Alternatives .....	2-1
2.1.2 Pump Wastewater to an Adjacent Jurisdiction for Treatment.....	2-2
2.2 Alternatives Considered in Intermediate Screening and Eliminated.....	2-2
2.2.1 Construction of New Facilities Alternative.....	2-2
2.3 Final Alternatives Considered in Detail.....	2-2
2.3.1 No Action .....	2-2
2.3.2 Preferred Plan – Modification of Existing Facilities Coupled With New Facilities.....	2-3
3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING .....	3-1
3.1 Project Location and Land Use.....	3-1
3.2 Geology and Topography .....	3-1
3.3 Soils Resources.....	3-2
3.3.1 Existing Condition .....	3-2
3.3.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-2
3.3.3 Impact of No-Action .....	3-2
3.4 Water Resources and Water Quality .....	3-2
3.4.1 Existing Condition .....	3-2
3.4.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-3
3.4.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-4
3.5 Faunal Resources.....	3-4
3.5.1 Existing Condition .....	3-4
3.5.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-5
3.5.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-5
3.6 Floodplain and Flood Hazard Areas .....	3-5
3.6.1 Existing Condition .....	3-5
3.6.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-6
3.6.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-6
3.7 Wetlands.....	3-6
3.7.1 Existing Condition .....	3-6
3.7.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-6
3.7.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-6
3.8 Vegetation .....	3-7
3.8.1 Existing Condition .....	3-7
3.8.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-7

**TABLE OF CONTENTS  
(continued)**

<b><u>Section</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (continued)	
3.8.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-7
3.9 Regulated Hazardous Contaminants.....	3-7
3.10 Cultural Resources .....	3-7
3.10.1 Existing Condition .....	3-7
3.10.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-8
3.10.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-8
3.11 Scenic Rivers.....	3-8
3.11.1 Existing Condition .....	3-8
3.11.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-8
3.11.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-8
3.12 Air Quality and Noise .....	3-8
3.12.1 Existing Condition .....	3-8
3.12.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-9
3.12.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-10
3.13 Socioeconomics.....	3-10
3.13.1 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-10
3.13.2 Impact of No Action.....	3-10
3.14 Aesthetics .....	3-11
3.14.1 Existing Condition .....	3-11
3.14.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-11
3.14.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-11
3.15 Transportation.....	3-11
3.15.1 Existing Condition .....	3-11
3.15.2 Impact of Preferred Plan .....	3-11
3.15.3 Impact of No Action.....	3-12
4.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS .....	4-1
5.0 STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.....	5-1
6.0 COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC .....	6-1
7.0 FEDERAL AND STATE PERMITS.....	7-1
7.1 Federal Permits .....	7-1
7.2 State Permits .....	7-1
8.0 CONCLUSIONS .....	8-1
9.0 PHOTOGRAPHS OF PROJECT AREA.....	9-1

**TABLE OF CONTENTS  
(continued)**

***Appendices***

- A Agency Coordination
- B Mailing List for Environmental Assessment
- C Notice of Availability
- D Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

**List of Tables**

<b><u>Table</u></b>		<b><u>Page</u></b>
3-1.	Fish Species of East Fork Paint Creek.....	3-4
3-2	Permissible Non-Department of Defense Noise Exposures.....	3-9
4-1	Summary of Environmental Impacts Associated with Preferred Action.....	4-1
5-1	Status of Environmental Compliance .....	5-1

**List of Figures**

<b><u>Figure</u></b>		<b><u>Page</u></b>
1	Local Project Area .....	1-3
2	Regional Location Map.....	3-1

## 1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### **1.1 Project Background**

The Village of Bloomingburg may be regarded as a typical rural village located in south-central Ohio. The Village's existing wastewater treatment plant as well as the McDowell Street Pump Station were originally constructed in 1976 and have reached the end of their useful life and are in need of replacement. The wastewater treatment plant has experienced numerous violations of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) over the past several years, notably for total suspended solids, carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia nitrogen and coliform bacteria. The McDowell Street Pump Station serves approximately one-half of the Village yet does not comply with current construction guidelines that would otherwise allow for safe operation and maintenance. The station lacks an emergency source of power and no means have been provided to remove the pumps for service and inspection. The wastewater treatment plant, McDowell Street Pump Station and collection system are all located within the Village of Bloomingburg corporation boundary (Refer to **Figure 1**).

### **1.2 Statement of Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide adequate, affordable and reliable long term sewage collection and treatment within the project area, such that water quality objectives, as mandated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, are met. The project is necessary to comply with the terms and conditions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. 4PB00025\*FD issued to the Village of Bloomingburg and which became effective July 1, 2005.

### **1.3 Project Description**

The proposed wastewater collection and treatment system is located along East Fork Paint Creek in the Village of Bloomingburg, Fayette County, Ohio adjacent to State Route 38. The project area refers to and includes the wastewater treatment plant, gravity sewer and McDowell Street Pump Station locations, all of which are located within the Bloomingburg corporation boundary.

The Preferred Action Alternative consists of a combination of modifications and new construction of various wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment facilities, including:

- installation of approximately 1,800 lineal feet of 15-inch PVC SDR-35 sanitary sewer line and related subordinate parts to replace the existing sewer;
- a functionally new wastewater treatment facility, having a design average flow of 250,000 gallons per day and consisting of a fine screen with integral screening compaction, secondary (biological) treatment, two secondary clarifiers, ultraviolet disinfection equipment, post aeration facilities, an aerated sludge holding tank and one masonry superstructure to enclose the screening facilities. The plant would occupy about 2 acres on the same property as the existing treatment plant which is located adjacent to East Fork Paint Creek along State Route 38, southwest of the Village;

- installation of 900 lineal feet of 15-inch PVC SDR-35 plant outfall conduit and related appurtenances; and
- relocation of the McDowell Street Pump Station, including 10-inch PVC SDR-35 sanitary sewer, two new submersible pumps, a valve vault, 6-inch PVC force main, standby generator, fencing, electrical and instrumentation and turf and pavement restoration.

This system would provide reliable and effective wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment to the Village of Bloomingburg and comply with State and Federal water quality regulations.

#### **1.4 Project Authority**

Studies for this project have been initiated under Section 594 of the Water Development Act of 1999 (PL106-53) which provides authority for the Secretary of the Army to establish a program to provide environmental assistance to non-Federal interests in Ohio. This law provides assistance in the planning, design and construction of water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Ohio, including projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, combined sewer overflow, water supply, storage, treatment and related facilities, mine drainage, environmental restoration and surface water resource protection and development.

#### **1.5 Other Cooperating Federal Agencies**

There are no other federal agencies involved with this project.



## **2.0 PREFERRED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

The evaluation of alternatives focused on the selection of a reliable wastewater treatment system that would enable the Village of Bloomingburg to collect, convey and treat the wastewater generated within its service area while complying with NPDES discharge limitations. Based on the evaluation of environmental considerations, project purpose and need, capital and operating cost, ease of operation and reliability, two alternatives were carried forward to the final array, each of which is discussed below.

In addition to meeting the project's Purpose and Need, any acceptable plan must also conform to existing land use; be consistent with area-wide wastewater treatment management plans prepared by the State of Ohio pursuant to Section 209 of the Clean Water Act, the State of Ohio Water Quality Management Plan and federal water quality regulations; and must provide affordable, reliable and effective wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment to the Village of Bloomingburg, Ohio.

### **2.1 Alternatives Considered in Initial Screening and Eliminated**

#### **2.1.1 Operational Changes Within the Existing Plant Alternative**

Implementation of operational changes within the existing wastewater treatment plan, while beneficial, would have limited success in complying with the terms and conditions of the Village's NPDES permit and in achieving improved water quality in East Fork Paint Creek. For this reason, this alternative was eliminated from further consideration.

#### **2.1.2 Pump Wastewater to an Adjacent Jurisdiction for Treatment**

The nearest jurisdiction to the Village of Bloomingburg that engages in wastewater treatment is the City of Washington. The Service Director of the City of Washington Court House was contacted to explore the option of pumping the wastewater generated in Bloomingburg to Washington for treatment, a distance of approximately 7 miles. While sufficient capacity exists at Washington's wastewater treatment facility, significant upgrading of their sanitary sewer collection system would be required to accommodate the additional wastewater from Bloomingburg. The total cost to Bloomingburg under this alternative would include the cost to replace existing infrastructure in Washington, a surcharge for the treatment of Bloomingburg's wastewater at the City of Washington's waste water treatment plant and the capital and operation and maintenance costs for an equalization basin, pump station and force main for the storage and transfer of wastewater. The present worth cost for this alternative was far greater in relation to the present worth cost of replacing the existing facilities in Bloomingburg. For this reason, this alternative was eliminated from further consideration.

## **2.2 Alternatives Considered in Intermediate Screening and Eliminated**

### **2.2.1 Construction of New Facilities Alternative**

This alternative consists of constructing various wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment facilities, including:

- Relocation of the McDowell Street Pump Station, including new 10-inch PVC sanitary sewer, two new submersible pumps, new valve vault, new 6-inch PVC force main, new standby generator, fencing, new electrical and instrumentation equipment and turf and pavement restoration.
  
- Installation of approximately 1,800 lineal feet of 15-inch PVS sanitary sewer and related appurtenances within the existing right-of-way along SR38, extending from West Street to the wastewater treatment plant to replace the existing sewer.
  
- Construction of new wastewater treatment facilities located on the same property as the existing wastewater treatment plant, having a design average flow capacity of 0.25 mgd and consisting of the following new facilities:
  - Raw sewage pump station.
  - Fine screen with screenings compaction in masonry enclosure.
  - Oxidation ditch.
  - Secondary clarifiers and return sludge pump station.
  - Ultraviolet disinfection system.
  - Post aeration facilities.
  - Aerated sludge holding tanks.
  - Plant outfall sewer and related appurtenances.

This alternative partially meets the Needs and Purposes of the project. It is also the most costly. Implementation of this alternative would require a user fee in excess of acceptable limits making it unaffordable to the village. Therefore, this alternative does not meet the affordability need and, although considered in detail, was eliminated.

## **2.3 Final Alternatives Considered in Detail**

### **2.3.1 No Action Alternative**

The "No Action" Alternative would result in the continued use of existing wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities that have reached the end of their useful life. These facilities were originally constructed in 1976 and have, in the past, contributed to violations of the NPDES Permit discharge limitations and deterioration of the water quality of East Fork Paint Creek. As the plant continues to age, plant reliability would continue to decrease thereby increasing the risk of additional and more frequent episodes of non-permitted discharges into the creek.

### **2.3.2 Preferred Plan – Modification of Existing Facilities Coupled With New Facilities**

This action is similar in principle to the Construction of New Facilities Alternative but incorporates the modification of various existing wastewater treatment facilities into the project. The modified and new facilities include the following:

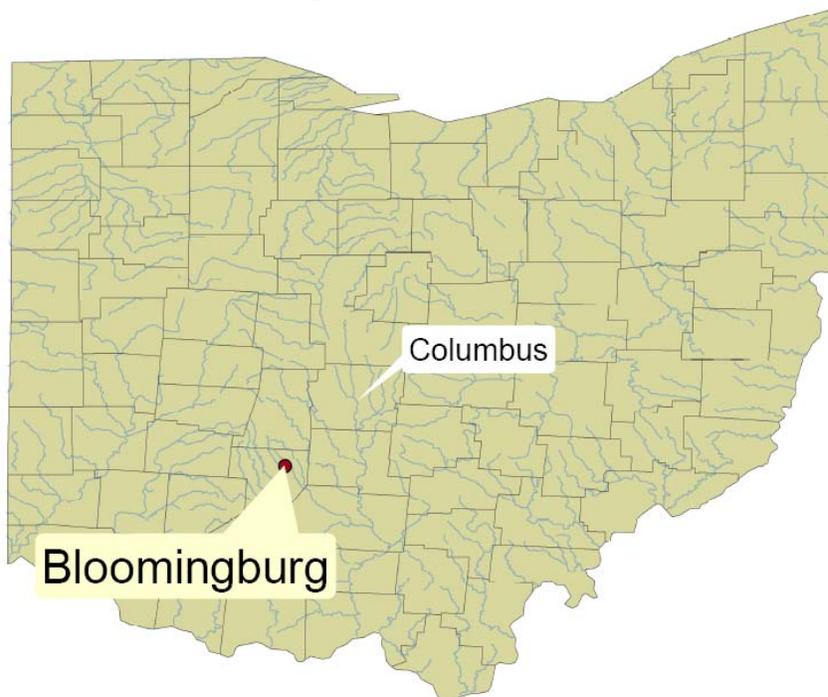
- Relocation of the McDowell Street Pump Station, including new 10-inch PVC sanitary sewer, two new submersible pumps, new valve vault, new 6-inch PVC force main, new standby generator, fencing, new electrical and instrumentation equipment and turf and pavement restoration.
  
- Installation of approximately 1,800 lineal feet of 15-inch PVS sanitary sewer and related appurtenances within the existing right-of-way along SR38, extending from West Street to the wastewater treatment plant to replace the existing sewer.
  
- Construction of new and modified existing wastewater treatment facilities located on the same property as the existing wastewater treatment plant, having a design average flow capacity of 0.25 mgd and consisting of the following new facilities:
  - Fine screen with screenings compaction in masonry enclosure.
  - Flow splitting chamber.
  - Modification of two existing treatment tanks to function as aeration tanks.
  - Modification of two existing dosing chambers to mixed liquor pump stations.
  - Secondary clarifiers and return sludge pump station.
  - Ultraviolet disinfection system.
  - Post aeration facilities.
  - Aerated sludge holding tank.
  - Plant outfall sewer and related appurtenances.

### 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### 3.1 Project Location and Land Use

The Village of Bloomingburg, Ohio is located in Paint Township in north-central Fayette County. The County is located in south central Ohio and is characterized by a mosaic pattern of agriculture, isolated woodlots, vegetative riparian zones lining streams and scattered towns and villages. Approximately 95% of the land area within Fayette County is devoted to agriculture. The location of the Bloomingburg wastewater treatment plant discharge outfall is at the following coordinates: Lat: 39N 36' 35"; Long: 83W 23' 39".

**Figure 2**  
**Regional Location Map**



#### 3.2 Geology and Topography

This area lies within the Central Till Plains Lowland Province, characterized by flat ground moraine. The topography of this region has been influenced by glacial activity which has resulted in level to gently sloping landforms and moderate to low gradient streams. Bedrock underlying the surface of the project area belongs to the Silurian System which consists of carbonate (fine grained limestone and dolomite) bedrock. The modern drainage patterns of the Fayette County, including the project area, reflect the terrain resulting from the final Wisconsin ice advance some 10,000 years ago.

The entire drainage system of Fayette County lies in the Scioto River Basin except for a small area in the northeast corner of the County which drains to the Little Miami River Basin. The project area lies in the upper reaches of Paint Creek, a main tributary of the Scioto River.

### **3.3 Soils Resources**

#### **3.3.1 Existing Condition**

The County contains approximately 260,000 land acres. Thirty-two soil types with fifty-six different map units have been identified in the County and vary in drainage quality from very poorly drained to well-drained. Soils within the project area are mainly of the Warsaw-Westland-Crosby soil association. These soils are silty loam to silty clay loam soil types and are considered prime farmland soils according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office located in Washington, Ohio (Refer to **Appendix A**).

#### **3.3.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

Discussions with the local NRCS office in Washington, Ohio has identified that there would be no impact on prime farmland soils as a result of proceeding with the preferred plan since the plant expansion activities would be within the existing plant boundary. Also, the proposed plant outfall sewer would be placed below soil classified as prime farmland but, since the area would be restored to its present agricultural use, there would be no impacts.

#### **3.3.3 Impact of No-Action**

There would be no impact on prime farmland soils as a result of proceeding with the no-action alternative since no construction activities would occur.

### **3.4 Water Resources and Water Quality**

#### **3.4.1 Existing Condition**

Fayette County lies south of the major drainage divide crossing north central Ohio; all of Fayette County drains toward the Ohio River via tributaries of the Scioto River. East Fork Paint Creek located in the project area is considered a major tributary of the Scioto River.

There are different indices used to rate the quality of warmwater habitat and each has its own criteria. The criteria for fish is IBI=40, with a 4 point allowance (down to 36) for being within criteria. The criteria for the macroinvertebrates is ICI=36, with 4-point allowance (down to 32) for being within criteria. The index of Well-being (fish index) has a criteria of 8.3, with a variance of 0.5 points (down to 7.8) allowable. QHEI scores above 60 are considered good. QHEI scores of 45-59 are fair. Below 45 is considered poor. Water quality sampling has been performed by the Ohio EPA in 1997 and again in 2006 both upstream and downstream of the existing wastewater treatment plant outfall. The following synopsis of findings was provided by that agency:

East Fork Paint Creek at Lewis Rd. (upstream from Bloomingburg)

2006: 22 species of fish, IBI =34, Modified Index of Well-being=6.8, 48 macroinvertebrate taxa, ICI=24, QHEI=44 Habitat appears to be modified resulting in low biological scores. Fish and macroinvertebrate communities DO NOT ATTAIN Warmwater Habitat criteria (WWH). Sensitive species are present, but tolerant taxa are more dominant. Impairment is most likely caused by poor habitat. It appears that this site was modified sometime after 1997 because the habitat score is significantly lower in 2006 and all biological index scores are significantly lower.

1997: 30 species of fish, IBI=44, Modified Index of Well-being=8.0, 62 macroinvertebrate taxa, ICI=52, QHEI=69. Habitat is good. The site is in FULL attainment of Warmwater Habitat criteria.

East Fork Paint Creek at Matthews Rd. (downstream from Bloomingburg)

2006: 29 species of fish, IBI =36, Modified Index of Well-being=8.1, 64 macroinvertebrate taxa, ICI=34, QHEI=56 Habitat is fair. Numerous sensitive species are present. The fish community is within non-significant departure of WWH criteria. Macroinvertebrates attain WWH criteria. Overall, the site is FULL attainment of WWH criteria.

1997: 28 species of fish (**See Table 3-1**), IBI=38, Modified Index of Well-being=7.4, 56 macroinvertebrate taxa, ICI=48, QHEI=34.5 Habitat is poor due to channelization. The fish community partially attains WWH criteria. The macroinvertebrate community attains WWH criteria. Overall, the site is PARTIAL attainment of WWH criteria.

Segments of East Fork Paint Creek are affected by non-point sources of pollution which include: agriculture, stream channelization and streambank modification and on-site wastewater treatment systems.

There are no Sole Source Aquifer Systems within the project area. Based on the Groundwater Pollution Potential Report for Fayette County, the project area is located in an area of relatively low vulnerability to groundwater pollution. Well logs within the vicinity of the project area indicate the depth to static water level ranges from 5 to 30 feet below the surface. The well log (76610) for the Village of Bloomingburg public water supply indicates a static water level of five feet below the surface and a yield of 140 gallons per minute. This well was drilled in April 1951 and is located adjacent to East Fork Paint Creek upstream of the wastewater treatment plant discharge outfall.

**3.4.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

Construction activities associated with the project are not expected to impact the local groundwater quality or supply. Impacts associated with soil erosion would be avoided and/or minimized through the use of erosion and sediment control measures that would prevent any offsite transport of sediment. In the long term, the project would improve the surface water quality of East Fork Paint Creek by eliminating the numerous violations of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) conditions over the past several years, notably for total suspended solids,

carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia nitrogen and coliform bacteria. The expected effluent would comply with more stringent effluent discharge limitations.

### **3.4.3 Impact of No Action**

The no action approach would increasingly continue to degrade the water quality of East Fork Paint Creek as a result of the use of outdated equipment that has reached the end of its useful life. Violations of the NPDES permit requirements for total suspended solids, carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia nitrogen and coliform bacteria are expected to increase as the equipment becomes less reliable with age.

## **3.5 Faunal Resources**

### **3.5.1 Existing Condition**

Based on a November 29, 2005 letter from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Refer To **Appendix A**), the project area lies within the range of the Indiana bat, a federally-listed endangered species. This bat prefers a forested habitat, preferably large, mature tree stands. Other habitat requirements include: dead or live trees with exfoliating bark (e.g. shagbark hickory and various oaks), split tree trunks or branches which may be used as maternity roost areas, stream corridors, riparian areas and upland woodlots which provide forage sites.

The range of the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, currently a federal candidate species and listed as endangered by the State of Ohio, also extends into the project area. This snake is often found in or near wet areas including wetlands, wet prairie or nearby woodland or shrub edge habitat. This often includes meadows with an early succession of woody plants such as dogwood or multi-flora rose.

Other common land faunal resources are those that typically exist in open field habitat of rural southwestern Ohio. Habitat that would be affected in the project area consists of mowed field artificially maintained through active mowing. Some intermittent riparian tree/shrub habitat exists in a narrow band along East Branch Paint Creek. Fish species identified by a 1997 OEPA survey downstream of Bloomingburg are listed below in **Table 3-1**.

**Table 3-1**  
**Fish Species in East Fork Paint Creek**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Gizzard Shad	<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>
Golden Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma erythrurum</i>
White Sucker	<i>Catostomus commersonii</i>
Spotted Sucker	<i>Minytrema melanops</i>
Creek Chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon oblongus</i>
Common Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>
Creek Chub	<i>Semolitus atromaculatus</i>

Striped Shiner	<i>Luxilus chrysocephalus</i>
Spotfin Shiner	<i>Notropis spilopterus</i>
Sand Shiner	<i>Notropis stramineus</i>
Bluntnose Minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>
Channel Catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
Yellow Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>
Black Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus melas</i>
Blackstripe Topminnow	<i>Fundulus notatus</i>
Brook Silverside	<i>Labidesthes sicculus</i>
White Crappie	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>
Rock Bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Warmouth Sunfish	<i>Lepomis gulosus</i>
Green Sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>
Bluegill Sunfish	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Orangespotted Sunfish	<i>Lepomis humilis</i>
Longear Sunfish	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>
Johnny Darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i>
Greenside Darter	<i>Etheostoma blennioides</i>
Orangethroat Darter	<i>Etheostoma spectabile</i>

### **3.5.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

The preferred plan does not involve encroachment or destruction of critical habitat typically used by the endangered Indiana bat and Massasauga rattlesnake species. The habitat affected would consist of mowed grass species typically found in residential lawn mixtures. The common faunal resources present in the area are generally tolerant of human disturbances such as are related to this project; however, the anticipated improved reliability of effluent quality would serve to maintain habitat quality and result in a beneficial impact to aquatic faunal resources.

### **3.5.3 Impact of No Action**

Even though the common faunal resources in the project area are generally tolerant of human disturbances, the no-action alternative would result in periodic adverse water quality impacts which would inherently have a negative impact on the faunal resources.

## **3.6 Floodplain and Flood Hazard Areas**

### **3.6.1 Existing Condition**

East Fork Paint Creek flows southward and intersects the project area at State Route 38, just upstream of the Bloomingburg wastewater treatment plant discharge location. Based on the flood rate insurance map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, lands adjacent to East Fork Paint Creek are considered flood hazard areas.

Bloomingburg and Fayette County has lost population over the last 5 years indicating little latent demand for residential development. The Village population is down 2.69% between 2000 and 2005 according to the Ohio Department of Development.

### **3.6.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

The existing plant and proposed new wastewater treatment facility are located adjacent to the floodplain. Wastewater treatment structures and associated electrical and mechanical equipment would be protected from the base flood elevation (i.e. 100 year flood) whose elevation is 972.0 feet above mean sea level at the location of the wastewater treatment plant site. There would be no structures or construction activity located in the floodway. Applicable State Ordinances related to floodplain management would be adhered to.

### **3.6.3 Impact of No Action**

There would be no impact on the floodplain as a result of proceeding with the no-action approach since no additional structures would be constructed.

## **3.7 Wetlands**

### **3.7.1 Existing Condition**

A March 2007 Wetland Delineation Report prepared by a certified wetlands delineator has concluded that there is one small wetland less than 0.1 acres in the affected area of construction. This is located adjacent to East Branch Paint Creek.

### **3.7.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

The wetland adjacent to East Fork Paint Creek would be impacted by construction of the effluent line. The extent of the impact would be less than 0.01 acres. This action would qualify under the terms and conditions of a Nationwide Permit (NWP) #12. NWPs are a type of general permit that are designed to regulate with little, if any, delay or paperwork certain activities having minimal impacts. NWP #12 addresses installation of utility lines. The State of Ohio has also issued Water Quality Certification for this NWP. Therefore, there would be no significant impact on wetlands as a result of proceeding with the preferred plan since the range of environmental impacts have been considered collectively during the evaluation of the NWP and State Water Quality Certification.

### **3.7.3 Impact of No Action**

There would be no impact on wetlands as a result of proceeding with the no-action approach since there would be no ground disturbance due to construction.

### **3.8 Vegetation**

#### **3.8.1 Existing Condition**

Vegetation within the project area is dictated by agricultural practices and sustained mowing operations. The ditch along SR38 has been mowed regularly which has resulted in the alteration of the plant community, presently dominated by grass species. The grassy area around the existing wastewater treatment plant site has been routinely mowed since the plant was built in 1976. With the exception of the East Fork Paint Creek stream corridor, there is no other vegetation within the project area other than grass species.

In a letter obtained from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (Refer to **Appendix A**), there are no records of rare or endangered vegetation species, unique ecological sites or geological features within the project area. In addition, there are no existing or proposed nature preserves, state parks, state forests or wildlife areas within the project area.

#### **3.8.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

There would be limited impact on native vegetation as a result of proceeding with the preferred plan. Excavation required during the project would temporarily disturb the existing grassy vegetative cover along the sewer alignment and at the wastewater treatment plant. These issues would be addressed through an erosion control plan suitable for the project in accordance with Clean Water Act (CWA) requirements.

#### **3.8.3 Impact of No Action**

There would be no impact on vegetation as a result of proceeding with the no-action approach.

### **3.9 Regulated Hazardous Contaminants**

To assist in the assessment of hazardous, toxic and radioactive wastes in the project area, a database search was prepared in conformance with American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard E1527-00. The resultant report that was prepared by *Environmental FirstSearch* includes a review of 17 federal and state databases for sites that are confirmed or suspected users, disposers or have hazardous substances stored on their premises. There were no findings of known or potential environmental contamination noted in the investigation report. Due to the absence of contaminant within the project area, there would be no impacts from either the Preferred Plan or the No Action Alternative.

### **3.10 Cultural Resources**

#### **3.10.1 Existing Condition**

A Phase 1 Cultural Resources Report was completed by *Environment & Archaeology*, LLC in November 2005 for the wastewater treatment plant site and McDowell Street Pump Station property. No significant prehistoric or historic cultural features were identified during the course of the field survey.

### **3.10.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

The Phase I Cultural Resource study for the areas to be disturbed by the proposed wastewater treatment plant and the proposed pump station failed to identify any intact archeological features. In addition, the gravity sewer portion of the project would be restricted to transportation rights-of-way and would replace existing lines. Impacts associated with the initial installation of collector lines and the construction of the highway would make intact archeological features highly unlikely. It is, therefore, unlikely that any significant historical, cultural or archaeological resources would be adversely impacted by this project. However, if such resources are discovered during the construction of the project, work would be stopped and the State Historic Preservation Office would be notified prior to continuance of the work.

### **3.10.3 Impact of No Action**

There would be no impact on cultural resources as a result of proceeding with the no- action approach.

## **3.11 Scenic Rivers**

### **3.11.1 Existing Condition**

There are no existing or pending state or national scenic rivers in the project area as determined by the State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Department of Natural Areas and Preserves.

### **3.11.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

There would be no impact on scenic rivers as a result of proceeding with the proposed plan.

### **3.11.3 Impact of No Action**

There would be no impact on scenic rivers as a result of proceeding with the no- action approach.

## **3.12 Air Quality and Noise**

### **3.12.1 Existing Condition**

As is typical in most rural agricultural areas, the existing air quality is very high within the project area with no impacts noted. Fayette County is rated in full attainment related to air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act. As well, there are no significant noise generators within the project area. The project area is in a relatively remote agrarian community, having relatively sparse population density and no presence of industrial activity. Existing noise sources include traffic, farming equipment, lawn mowers, etc.

### **3.12.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

The use of construction equipment may result in some air emissions that temporarily impact existing air quality in the project area. Mobile sources of air pollutants, however, are not regulated by the state except in some of the non-attainment counties. Air quality may also be affected by fugitive dust resulting from the excavation process. Any impacts would be short-term, localized and would occur only during construction phase activities. During these activities, the contractor would use appropriate means to control fugitive dust to avoid creating a nuisance.

Noise is measured as Day Night average noise levels (DNL) in “A-weighted” decibels that the human ear is most sensitive to (dBA). While there is no federal standard for allowable noise levels, several agencies have developed guidelines for acceptable noise levels. The Department of Housing and Urban Development Guidelines denote DNLs below 65 dBA as normally acceptable levels of exterior noise in residential areas. While the FAA denotes a DNL of 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 sparse suburban and rural residential areas (Schomer et al 2001). According to Dr. Paul Schomer in his 2001 Whitepaper, while there are numerous thresholds for acceptable noise in residential areas, research suggests that 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 USACE Safety and Health Requirements Manual, provides criteria for temporary permissible noise exposure levels, for consideration of hearing protection or the need to administer sound reduction controls.

**Table 3-2. Permissible Non-Department of Defense Noise Exposures**

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 is equipment to be used during installation of the sewer line, that each emit noise levels around 85 dBA at 45 feet. Construction machinery would be operated for approximately 8 hours, generating noise during the daytime (7am-6pm) when many residents are at work. Therefore, a reasonable exposure time of 2 hours would be expected during times which residents may be home during the day. Elevated noise levels at each residence could be anticipated for 3 days, given an approximate sewer line installation rate of 25ft/hour or 300 feet/day. As construction equipment approaches residences at a distance of 300-125 feet noise levels would range from approximately 68-78 dBA. Peak outdoor noise levels ranging from 78-90

dbA would occur during the time in which equipment is directly in front of or in close 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 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 (USACE 2003). Further, they are similar to typical neighborhood noise generated by gaspowered lawnmowers in the local area, which could range from 90-95 dBA at 3 feet and 70-75 dbA at 100 feet. Residents' exposure 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 noises 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 Preferred Plan, impacts from noise to local residences should be minor and temporary.

### **3.12.3 Impact of No Action**

There would be no impact on air quality and noise as a result of proceeding with the no-action approach.

## **3.13 Socioeconomics**

### **3.13.1 Impact of Preferred Plan**

Under Executive Order (EO) 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations," federal agencies are directed to identify, address, and avoid disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low income populations.

Minority populations are extremely low in Fayette County compared to the predominantly Caucasian population (95.7%), according to the Ohio Department of Development. The percentage of persons living in poverty in Bloomingburg (15-20%) is somewhat higher than Ohio (10.6%) and Fayette County (10.1%) for 2000. However, the proposed work would impact and benefit everyone in the village equally as the gravity sewer lines would connect to all the village residents.

Based on the above demographic information, the project meets the directive of EO 12898 for the following reasons:

- The project area does disproportionately affect low-incomes or minority populations.
- The project would not create adverse human health or environmental effects.

### **3.13.2 Impact of No Action**

There would be no socioeconomic impact as a result of proceeding with the no action approach.

### **3.14 Aesthetics**

#### **3.14.1 Existing Conditions**

This small village is typical of rural Ohio. There is a mix of agricultural fields and maintained lawns around the modest homes. Tree rows act as wind breaks along the field edges and as riparian buffers along water courses and swales. The flat topography allows for extensive vistas limited primarily by the tree rows.

#### **3.14.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

The completion of the project would enhance the general health and living conditions of the community by providing improved collection, conveyance and treatment of its sanitary wastewater. During the construction phase, temporary inconveniences may occur for local residents as the gravity sewer is installed and the McDowell Street Pump Station is completed.

Since the wastewater treatment facility is in an isolated location away from the residential and business district, the project would not disturb the long-term visual quality of the community. All excavated areas would be effectively graded, mulched and seeded with native grass species.

#### **3.14.3 Impact of No Action**

There would be no aesthetic impacts as a result of proceeding with the no action approach since no existing facilities or structures would be disturbed.

### **3.15 Transportation**

#### **3.15.1 Existing Conditions**

The project is bordered on the south and east by State Route 38. The north side is bounded by Biddle Blvd and Academy Street while the west side of the project runs along West St. The north and west side boundaries are all internal village access roads.

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) classifies Route 38 as a Rural Major Collector Road. A road with this classification provides service to any county seat, larger towns and other county destinations such as consolidated schools, parks, or important mining and agricultural areas not served by an arterial; connects these places with nearby larger towns and cities or with arterial routes; and serves the most important intracounty travel corridors. Route 38 is a two lane road that carries an average of 1,330 vehicles per day through the village.

#### **3.15.2 Impact of Preferred Plan**

The project may have some short duration transportation and driveway access impacts associated with the excavation for and tie-in of the gravity sewer along State Route 38 in the right-of-way and in the vicinity of West Street. Additionally, excavation of the sewers and force main for the McDowell Street Pump Station may temporarily disrupt local traffic patterns. Other than these temporary disturbances,

there would be no adverse transportation impacts. A Right-of-Way User Permit would be required from ODOT to assure all state safety guidelines are met in regard to location and depth of trench; a maintenance of traffic plan, signage; and barriers for open pits. All work would conform to ODOT's 2005 Maintenance of Traffic Manual.

**3.15.3 Impact of No Action**

There would be no impact to transportation as a result of proceeding with the no action approach since no gravity lines would be installed.

## 4.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

**Table 4-1** summarizes in tabular format the environmental impacts of the project as heretofore discussed in **Section 3.0** of this report.

<b>Table 4-1 Summary of Environmental Impacts Associated With Preferred Action</b>					
Impact	None	Beneficial		Adverse	
		Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Land Use	X				
Physiography/Geology/Soils	X				
Fish/Wildlife Resources and Endangered Species	X				
Floodplain/Flood Hazards				X	
Vegetation	X				
Regulated Hazardous Contaminants	X				
Water Resources and Water Quality		X			
Cultural Resources	X				
Scenic Rivers	X				
Air Quality	X				
Noise	X				
Socio-Economic Resources & Environmental Justice	X				
Aesthetics	X				
Transportation	X				

## 5.0 STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

**Table 5-1** summarizes the project status of compliance with various statutes and executive orders, respectively.

<b>Table 5-1 Status of Environmental Compliance</b>	
<b>Federal Statute</b>	<b>Preferred Action</b>
Archaeological Resources Protection Act, as Amended, 16 U.S.C. 470aa, <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, as Amended, 16 U.S.C. 469, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
Clean Air Act, as Amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401, <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
Clean Water Act (Federal Water Pollution Control Act), as Amended, 336 U.S.C. 1251, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
Endangered Species Act, as Amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
Farmland Protection Policy Act, PL 97-98, 7 CFR 658	Full Compliance
Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as Amended, 16 U.S.C. 460, <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as Amended, 16 U.S.C. 661, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, as Amended, 42 U.S.C. 4601, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
National Environmental Policy Act, as Amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
National Historic Preservation Act, as Amended, 16 U.S.C 470, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
Quiet Communities Act of 2003	Full Compliance
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, PL 94-580	Full Compliance
Rivers and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. 401, <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
Rivers and Harbors Act, 91 U.S.C. 122, <u>et seq.</u>	Not Applicable
Toxic Substances Control Act, PL 94-469	Full Compliance
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 U.S.C. 1001, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
Wildlife and Scenic Rivers Act, as Amended, 16 U.S.C. 1271, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C.9601, <u>et seq.</u>	Full Compliance
<b>Executive Orders &amp; Memoranda</b>	
Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988)	Full Compliance
Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990)	Not Applicable
Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations (E.O. 12898)	Full Compliance
<b>State, Local and Corps Policies</b>	
Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Guidance, ER 1165-2-132	Full Compliance

## 6.0 COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC

Coordination with various federal, state and local agencies was undertaken during the preparation of this report. The Village of Bloomingburg New Wastewater Treatment Plant, Gravity Sewer and Relocation of the McDowell Street Pump Station Project Environmental Assessment will be made available to environmental resource agencies, both federal and state as well as the general public and other interested agencies, groups and individuals for a thirty (30) day review period as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

A notice of availability will be prepared (**Appendix C**) and will be published in the local newspaper, the Record Herald, concerning this document. Comments received during the thirty day review period will be considered in the Final Environmental Assessment.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Huntington District Office  
502 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Huntington, West Virginia 25701  
Lisa Morgan

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
2045 Morse Road – Building F1  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
Butch Grieszmer

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1415 U.S. Highway 22 SW  
Suite 500  
Washington Court House, Ohio 43160  
Jay McElroy

Fayette County Health Department  
317 S. Fayette Street  
Washington Court House, Ohio 43160  
Rick Garrison

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
Norman West

Village of Bloomingburg  
Fire Department  
Bloomingburg, OH 43106  
Doug Welsh

Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
Resource Protection and Review  
567 East Hudson Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43211  
Julie Quinlan

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife  
2045 Morse Road - Building G  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
John Navarro

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Central District Office  
122 South Front Street  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049  
Sheree Gossett-Johnson

## **7.0 FEDERAL AND STATE PERMITS**

### **7.1 Federal Permits**

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act has established a program to regulate the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. The Preferred Action as previously described would impact a small wetland along the bank of East Fork Paint Creek. Therefore, a Section 404 permit would be required prior to construction in connection with the Preferred Action. For this project, that 404 permit would be in the form of a Nationwide Permit.

### **7.2 State Permits**

A Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the State of Ohio is required to obtain a federal Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, or any other federal licenses or permits for projects that would result in a discharge of dredged or fill material to any waters of the State. The Preferred Action would require a Section 401 Permit as some fill material would be discharged into a wetland as part of the project.

Since the Preferred Action would disturb more than a one (1) acre of land within the existing plant boundary, a Notice of Intent to discharge stormwater would be required. This activity would be coordinated prior to construction with the Ohio EPA. An NPDES Stormwater Permit would not be required as the Bloomingburg wastewater treatment plant has a capacity of less than 1 million gallons per day design average flow. Stormwater discharge is currently and will continue to be covered under a general permit.

To replace the gravity sewer lines within the right-of-way of State Route 38, a Right-of-Way User Permit would be required from ODOT.

## **8.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The Draft Environmental Assessment concludes with the following:

- The purpose of the proposed project is to provide adequate, affordable and reliable long term sewage collection and treatment within the project area
- The project would provide expected improvement in the water quality of East Fork Paint Creek as a result of the attainment of more stringent effluent requirements as required by the terms and conditions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. 4PB00025\*FD issued to the Village of Bloomingburg and which became effective July 1, 2005.
- The project would benefit the Village's estimated 370 residential, commercial and industrial customers by providing more reliable and affordable wastewater collection and treatment facilities.
- A wetland exists within the project area and a Nationwide Permit and state water quality certification are required to comply with the Clean Water Act.
- The project would not encroach on critical habitat typically used by species that may reside in and around the project area that are listed on the Federal List of Endangered or Threatened Species.
- The project would not adversely impact any known archaeological, cultural or historic sites within the area.
- Significant natural resource mitigation would not be required.
- Coordination with Federal, state and local agencies has been on-going.
- The project would not have an impact on the population of the Village of Bloomingburg and would not contribute to any displacement of residents from their homes nor disrupt local businesses and industry.

---

**9.0 PHOTOGRAPHS OF PROJECT AREA**



**McDowell Street Pump Station Site  
(Existing Pump Station Located in Block Building at Left)**





**SR38 Looking West (Gravity Sewer Alignment in R-O-W on Left)**



**SR38 Looking East (Gravity Sewer Alignment in R-O-W on Right)**



**Treatment Plant Site (Looking South at Plant Entrance)**



**Treatment Plant Site East Boundary (Looking South)**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGBURG  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, GRAVITY SEWER  
AND McDOWELL STREET PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT  
SECTION 594 PROJECT  
FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO**

**APPENDIX A  
AGENCY COORDINATION**

**U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA**

**AUGUST 2007**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGBURG  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, GRAVITY SEWER  
AND McDOWELL STREET PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT  
SECTION 594 PROJECT  
FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO**

**APPENDIX B  
MAILING LIST  
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA**

**AUGUST 2007**

**Federal Agencies and Officials**

Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator  
District Office:  
600 East Superior Avenue  
Room 2450  
Cleveland OH 44114

Honorable George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator  
District Office:  
37 West Broad Street, Rm 960  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Honorable David L. Hobson  
Representative in Congress  
District Office:  
212 South Broad Street  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ohio Field Office  
6960-H American Parkway  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068  
Attn: Dr. Mary Knapp

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1415 U.S. Highway 22 SW  
Suite 500  
Washington Court House, Ohio 43160  
Attn: Jay McElroy

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590  
Attn: Norman West

**State Agencies and Officials**

Honorable Ted Strickland  
Office of the Governor  
77 South High Street, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Honorable John Carey  
State Senator  
Senate Building Room 127  
Ground Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**State Agencies and Officials (cont'd)**

Honorable John M. Schlichter  
State Representative  
77 South High Street – 12th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
Resource Protection and Review  
567 East Hudson Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43211  
Attn: Julie Quinlan

Ohio Historical Society  
Archaeology Development Reviews  
567 East Hudson Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43211  
Attn: Tim Allen

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
2045 Morse Road, Bldg F-1  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693  
Attn: Butch Grieszmer

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Central District Office  
50 West Town Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Attn: Sheree Gossett-Johnson

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife, District One Headquarters  
2045 Morse Road, Bldg G  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6605  
Attn: John Navarro

Ohio Department of Transportation  
District 6  
400 E. William Street  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

**County Agencies and Officials**

Fayette County Board of Commissioners  
133 South Main Street, Suite 401  
Washington Court House, Ohio 43160  
Attn: Judy Rambo

Fayette County Health Department  
317 South Fayette Street  
Washington Court House, Ohio 43160  
Attn: Rick Garrison

**Regional Agencies**

Jason Gillow  
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission  
9329 St Rt 220 E, Suite A  
Waverly, OH 45690

**Municipal Agencies and Officials**

Honorable Gayle Brown  
Mayor, Village of Bloomingburg  
62 Main Street  
Bloomingburg, Ohio 43106

Carnegie Public Library  
127 S North St  
Washington Court House, Ohio 43160-2283  
Attn: Librarian

**Engineering Consultant**

BBS/CH2MHILL  
300 E-Business Way, Suite 400  
Columbus, Ohio 43241  
Attn: Alan H. Smith, P.E.

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGBURG**  
**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, GRAVITY SEWER**  
**AND McDOWELL STREET PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT**  
**SECTION 594 PROJECT**  
**FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO**

**APPENDIX C**  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

**U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA**

**AUGUST 2007**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, has developed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address potential impacts related to the Bloomingburg, Ohio, wastewater collection system and treatment plant upgrades. This Notice of Availability advises the public that the EA will be available for public review on or about August 15, 2007. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 40 CFR 1501.4 the EA must be available to the public, in the affected area, for thirty (30) days for review and comment. Final determination regarding the need for additional NEPA documentation will be made after the public review period, which ends on or about September 14, 2007.

Copies of the EA may be viewed at the following locations:

Carnegie Public Library  
127 S North St  
Washington Court House, Ohio 43160-2283

Village of Bloomingburg  
62 Main Street  
Bloomingburg, Ohio 43106

The EA may also be viewed on-line at the following website:

<http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/review/>

A copy of the EA may be obtained by contacting Mr. Peter K. Dodgion, Huntington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office at (304) 399-5873. Comments pertaining to the document should be directed to:

Mr. Peter K. Dodgion  
Chief, Environmental Analysis Section  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, WV 25701

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGBURG**  
**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, GRAVITY SEWER**  
**AND McDOWELL STREET PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT**  
**SECTION 594 PROJECT**  
**FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO**

**APPENDIX D**  
**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA**

**AUGUST 2007**

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGBURG  
NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, GRAVITY SEWER,  
AND McDOWELL STREET PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT**

**SECTION 594 PROJECT**

**FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO**

1. Members of my staff have conducted an Environmental Assessment, in the overall public interest, which considers the environmental impacts of the proposed Village of Bloomingburg Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, pump station replacement and collection system installation to the community in Fayette County, Ohio. The preferred plan consists of constructing a new 250,000 gallon per day wastewater treatment facility to serve the citizens of Bloomingburg, Ohio; replacing the plant outfall conduit and the incoming plant gravity sewer; and relocating and replacing an existing pump station located on McDowell Street. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide adequate and reliable long term sewage collection and treatment within the project area, such that water quality objectives, as mandated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, are met.

2. The possible consequences of the proposed action have been studied for environmental, cultural, and social well-being affects.

3. The Preferred Plan and the "No Action" alternative were the only alternatives carried forward for detailed evaluation. Primary ecological impacts from the preferred plan are related to installation of the proposed collection system lines, which are considered to be minor and temporary. The preferred plan is expected to have beneficial impacts on water quality by providing additional capacity and reliability to the existing sewage treatment plant. No threatened or endangered species or any associated critical habitat would be impacted by the Preferred Plan.

The No Action alternative would not improve wastewater treatment practices in the Village of Bloomingburg, adversely impacting water quality in the East Fork Paint Creek. Under the No Action, the requirements of the NPDES permit would not be met.

4. An evaluation of the preferred plan produced the following pertinent conclusions:
  - a. Environmental Considerations. The Huntington District has taken reasonable measures to assemble and present the known or foreseeable impacts of the preferred plan to the human and natural environment in the Environmental Assessment. All potential adverse impacts of the proposed action are insignificant and should last only a few months longer than the implementation period.
  - b. Social Well-Being considerations. No significant economic or social well-being impacts that are both adverse and/or unavoidable are foreseen as a result of the preferred plan. The human community would benefit from proposed action through improved wastewater treatment practices in the Village of Bloomingburg. The preferred plan would not have any impacts on sites of significant archeological or historical importance.
  - c. Coordination with Resource and Other Agencies. Pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1958 as amended, coordination with the following agencies has been performed: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Appropriate measures and best management practices have been identified and incorporated into the plan. Also, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1970 as amended, the proposed action would not have any adverse impacts on listed species.
  - d. Other Pertinent Compliance. A portion of the project area is considered Prime Farmland. In consultation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, it was determined that there would be no adverse impacts to this resource
  - e. Other Public Interest Considerations. There has been no opposition to the proposed action expressed by the state or local governments, or organized environmental groups, and there are no unresolved issues regarding the implementation of the project.
  - f. Sections 404/401 Clean Water Act. In conformance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, permits authorized under Nationwide Permits 7 and 12 were issued. Section 401 water quality certification was issued concurrently by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Certification from the OEPA would also ensure that the proposed action is in compliance with Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act and would not cause or contribute to significant degradation of waters of the U.S. including adverse effects on human health or aquatic life.
  - g. Section 176 (c) Clean Air Act. The proposed action has been analyzed for conformity pursuant to regulations implementing Section 176 (c) of the Clean Air Act. It has been determined that activities associated with the preferred plan are not regulated by the state. Fugitive dust would be maintained below nuisance levels.
5. I find the proposed action has been planned in accordance with current authorization as described in the Environmental Assessment. The proposed action is consistent with National policy, statutes and administrative directives. This determination is based on thorough analysis and evaluation of the proposed action and the alternative course of action. In conclusion, I find the proposed collection system replacement and wastewater treatment plant upgrades to the Village of Bloomingburg would have no significant adverse effect on the quality of the human and/or natural environment.

---

Date

---

Matthew S. Orenstein  
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
Acting Commander