Draft Environmental Assessment

Section 340 Prichard Waterline Project
Wayne County, West Virginia

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

July 2020

Executive Summary

The City of Kenova is proposing to design and construct a water system improvement project to replace, upgrade, and extend the water infrastructure. Improvements and upgrades are required in order to reduce water loss, provide fire protection service and quantity of water needed for potential economic development within the industrial area of Prichard including the Heartland Intermodal Gateway Facility. Currently, the existing lines within the project area need continual maintenance and are believed to be major sources of water loss within the existing distribution system and fire flow is inadequate to meet the need of large manufacturing, industrial, and commercial business. The need for the water infrastructure improvements and extension in the proposed area is to provide infrastructure into an area that has potential for economic development, provide a safe reliable water system, and reduce water loss.

The Proposed Action Alternative would consist of construction of approximately 64,060 linear feet (LF) of 12” water main, 30 LF of 8” water main, 920 LF of 6” water main, 70 LF of 4” water main, and 60 LF of 2” water main. All pipe will be laid directly adjacent to portions of Route 52, County Road 18, County Road 20, and Old Route 52. The project would also increase the size of the valves and waterline from the 500,000 gallon Prichard water storage tank from 6” to 12” diameter. The majority of the project would be constructed in previously disturbed areas between drainage ditches and Route 52, Old Route 52, County Road 18, and County Road 20. Additionally, a portion of the waterline would be placed in an industrial park adjacent to Old Route 52 which also exhibits disturbance.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the City and the Corps established under the authority of Section 340 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 (Public Law 102-580), as amended, which provides authority for the Corps to establish a program to provide environmental assistance to Non-Federal entities in Southern West Virginia. This law provides design and construction assistance for water related environmental infrastructure projects to Non-Federal interests in Southern West Virginia, including projects for wastewater treatment plants and related facilities, water supply, water storage, water treatment, water distribution facilities and surface water resource protection and development.

This Environmental Assessment is prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) and the Corps Implementing regulation, ER-200-2-2.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	**Project Description**	**1**
1.1	Project Background	1
1.2	Purpose, Need, and Authorization	1
2.0	**Proposed Actions and Alternatives**	**2**
2.1	Proposed Action	2
2.2	No Action Alternative	2
3.0	**Environmental Setting and Consequences**	**2**
3.1	Location	3
3.2	Land Use	4
3.3	Climate	4
3.4	Terrestrial Habitat	5
3.5	Floodplains	5
3.6	Prime and Unique Farmland	6
3.7	Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality	6
3.8	Wetlands	6
3.9	Wild and Scenic Rivers	7
3.10	Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Wastes	7
3.11	Cultural Resources	8
3.12	Threatened and Endangered Species	8
3.13	Air Quality	9
3.14	Noise	9
3.15	Environmental Justice and Protection of Children	10
3.16	Aesthetics	11
3.17	Transportation and Traffic	11
3.18	Health and Safety	11
3.19	Cumulative Effects	11
4.0	**Status of Environmental Compliance**	**13**
5.0	**Required Coordination**	**13**
5.1	Agencies Contacted	13
5.2	Public Review and Comments	14
6.0	**Conclusion**	**14**
7.0	**List of Information Providers and Agency Preparers**	**14**

8.0 References **14**

List of Tables

Table 1 Permissible Non-Department of Defense Noise Exposures 9
Table 2 Status of Environmental Compliance 13

List of Appendices

Appendix A Exhibits
Appendix B Agency Coordination
Appendix C Mailing List

Acronyms

BMPs- Best Management Practices
CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations
Corps – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
DNL – Day Night Average Noise Levels
EA – Environmental Assessment
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
EO – Executive Order
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM – Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA – Farmland Protection Policy Act
GPM – Gallons per Minute
HIG – Heartland Intermodal Gateway
HTRW – Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste
LF – Linear Feet
NAA – No Action Alternative
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
NWI – National Wetland Inventory Map
PAA – Proposed Action Alternative
SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WRDA - Water Resources Development Act

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 Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential environmental impacts of the waterline replacement, upgrade, and extension project as proposed by the City of Kenova (City). 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). An EIS is typically conducted where significant human or natural resources exist and the implementation of a proposed project may have significant negative effects to those resources. An EA typically involves projects where no significant resources occur or the project is expected to have less than significant impacts to the human and natural environment. In both EISs and EAs, additional project actions can be implemented to help avoid, minimize, or mitigate for potential project impacts.

1.2 Purpose, Need, and Authorization

The purpose of the proposed project would be to replace, upgrade, and extend the water infrastructure within the project area to provide fire protection service and the quantity of water needed for potential economic development within the industrial area of Prichard including the Heartland Intermodal Gateway Facility. Currently, fire flow is approximately 880 gallons per minute (gpm) within the project area and is inadequate to meet the need of large manufacturing, industrial, and commercial business that require approximately 3,333gpm. Existing lines within the project area need continual maintenance and are believed to be major sources of water loss within the existing distribution system. The need for the water infrastructure improvements and extension in the proposed area is to provide infrastructure into an area that has potential for economic development, provide a safe reliable water system, and reduce water loss.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the City and the Corps established under the authority of Section 340 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 (Public Law 102-580), as amended, which provides authority for the Corps to establish a program to provide environmental assistance to Non-Federal entities in Southern West Virginia. This law provides design and construction assistance for water related environmental infrastructure projects to Non-Federal interests in Southern West Virginia, including projects for wastewater treatment plants and related facilities, water supply, water storage, water treatment, water distribution facilities and surface water resource protection and development.

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

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action Alternative (PAA)

The PAA would consist of construction of approximately 64,060 linear feet (LF) of 12" water main, 30 LF of 8" water main, 920 LF of 6" water main, 70 LF of 4" water main, and 60 LF of 2" water main. All pipe will be laid directly adjacent to portions of Route 52, County Road 18, County Road 20, and Old Route 52. The project would also increase the size of the valves and waterline from the 500,000 gallon Prichard water storage tank from 6" to 12" diameter. The majority of the project would be constructed in previously disturbed areas between drainage ditches and Route 52, Old Route 52, County Road 18, and County Road 20. Additionally, a portion of the waterline will be placed in an industrial park adjacent to Old Route 52 which also exhibits disturbance. The proposed project would extend service to approximately 335 existing residential customers: four (4) existing commercial customers, 14 existing industrial customers, the existing Heartland Intermodal Gateway (HIG), Prichard Elementary School, the U.S. Post Office and several churches. Potable water for the project will be supplied by the Kenova Municipal Water Works water treatment plant.

2.2 No Action Alternative (NAA)

Under the NAA, the Corps would not provide funding for the project. Additionally, the City would not improve and extend the water system and the community would continue to have major water loss within the water distribution system and economic development would not be realized. This alternative was considered unacceptable due to the continued issues of the public infrastructure and potential loss of economic development. However, it is included in the alternatives analysis to establish a baseline condition for existing human and natural environmental conditions, to allow comparison between future without and with project actions, and to determine potential environmental effects of proposed with project alternatives.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND CONSEQUENCES

This section discusses the existing conditions by resource category and any potential environmental impacts associated with the No Action Alternative (NAA) as well as with implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative (PAA).

The Corps took context and intensity into consideration in determining potential impact significance, as defined in 40 CFR part 1508.27. The intensity of a potential impact is the impact's severity and includes consideration of beneficial and adverse effects, the level of controversy associated with a project's impacts on human health, whether the action establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects, the level of uncertainty about project impacts and whether the action threatens to violate federal, state, or local laws established for the protection of the human and natural environment. The severity of an environmental impact is

characterized as none/negligible, minor, moderate, significant, or beneficial. The impact may also be short-term or long-term in nature.

- **None/negligible –** No measurable impacts are expected to occur.
- **Minor –** A measurable and adverse effect to a resource. A slight impact that may not be readily obvious and is within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts should be avoided and minimized if possible, but should not result in a mitigation requirement.
- **Significant –** A measurable and adverse effect to a resource. A major impact that is readily obvious and is not within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts likely result in the need for mitigation.
- **Beneficial –** A measurable and positive effect to a resource. May be minor to major, resulting in improved conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.
- **Short-Term –** Temporary in nature and does not result in a permanent long-term beneficial or adverse effect to a resource. For example, temporary construction-related effects (such as, an increase in dust, noise, traffic congestion) that no longer occur once construction is complete. May be minor, significant, adverse or beneficial in nature.
- **Long-Term –** Permanent (or for most of the project life) beneficial or adverse effects to a resource. For example, permanent conversion of a wetland to a parking lot. May be minor, significant, adverse or beneficial in nature.

The Corps used quantitative and qualitative analyses, as appropriate, to determine the level of potential impact from proposed alternatives. Based on the results of the analyses, this EA identifies whether a particular potential impact would be adverse or beneficial, and to what extent. CEQ regulations also require that a proposed action's cumulative impact be addressed as part of a NEPA document. Cumulative impacts are discussed in section 3.19 below.

3.1 Location

The affected area is located within the City of Kenova in Wayne County, West Virginia. Installation of the waterlines would run directly adjacent to portions of Route 52, County Road 18, County Road 20, and Old Route 52 (Figure 1) from the Kenova Municipal Water Treatment Plant to the Heartland Intermodal Gateway Facility. The Heartland Intermodal Gateway facility is currently owned by the West Virginia Port Authority and is located almost in the exact center of the "Heartland Corridor" which provides rail service for double stack containers from the Port of Virginia to Chicago. The Heartland Corridor is a project that modified the existing coal railroad lines in West Virginia to handle double stacked containers. See Appendix A for project location maps.

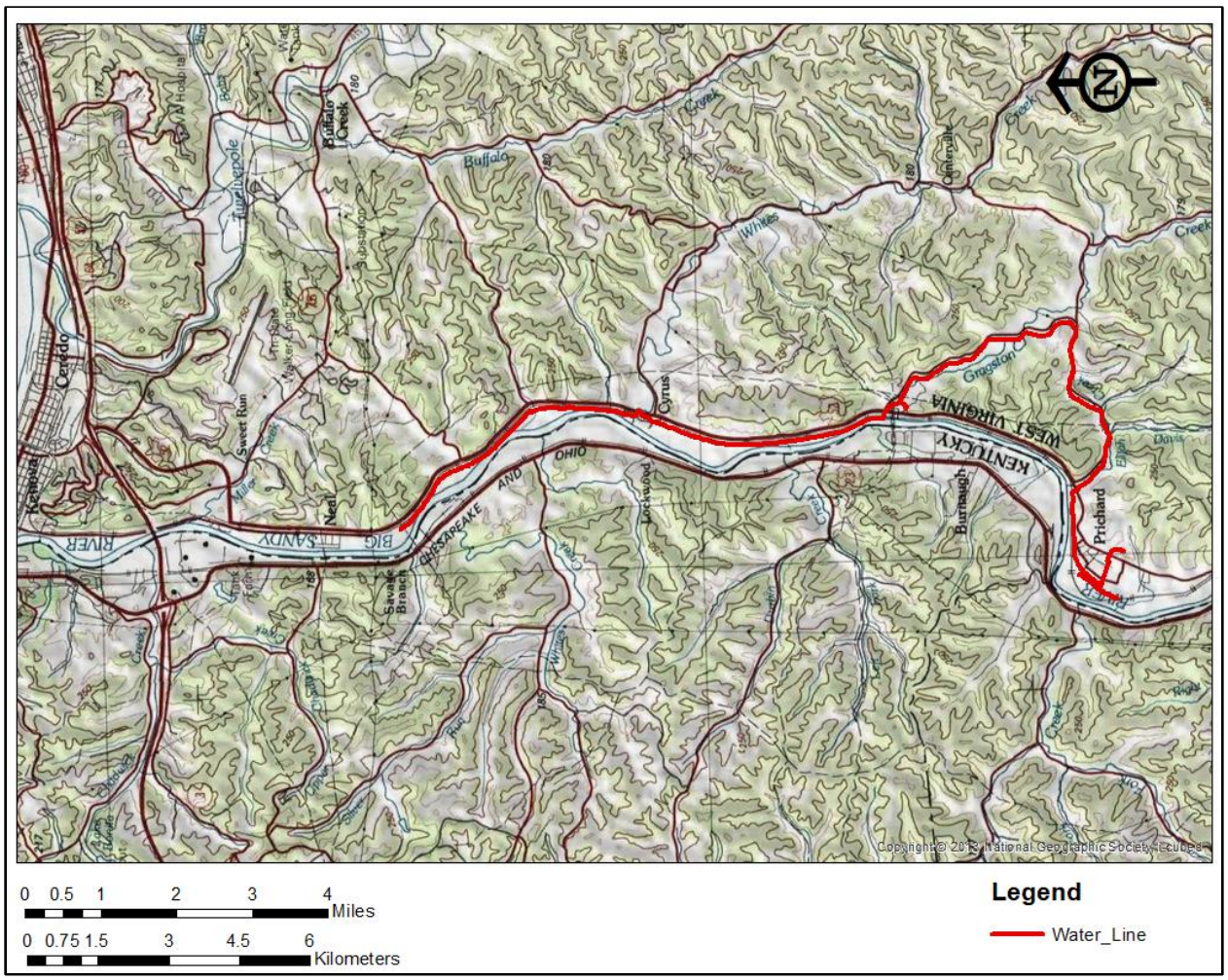

Figure 1. Topographic view of the project location.

3.2 Land Use

Land use in the immediate project area is mainly residential with some commercial and industrial properties. The proposed water extension project would be constructed within areas that have been heavily impacted by the construction of U.S. Route 52, County Routes 18 and 20, and modern development. Land contours would be reclaimed upon completion of the underground installation. Due to the previously disturbed nature of the area, land use is not anticipated to be adversely impacted.

There would be no significant adverse impacts to land use as a result of either the PAA or NAA.

3.3 Climate

Nelsonville experiences seasonal weather patterns with typical summer conditions of hot and humid days and winters being mild to moderate cold temperatures with snowfall. Fall is typically the driest season, while spring is typically wetter. Average temperatures during the

summer months of May to September are 77 degrees Fahrenheit, with periods of hot and humid conditions in late summer months. The coldest season lasts for three months from November to February with an average temperature of 52 degrees Fahrenheit and average seasonal snowfall of 17 inches. The coldest month is typically January with an average low of 27 degrees Fahrenheit and high of 43 degrees.

Only short duration, minor discharges of carbon based pollutants would occur during construction activities that could contribute to greenhouse gases. The NAA or PAA would not involve any activity that could significantly affect the environment in regards to climate change and would not likely be influenced by future changes in climate. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to climate or climate change would occur as a result of the PAA.

3.4 Terrestrial Habitat

The PAA would be constructed primarily on previously disturbed areas, including road rights-of-way. Removal of grass and vegetation may occur within areas where trenching for the waterlines are implemented. Potential impacts to vegetation would be minimal and temporary. It is anticipated that no tree clearing would be required. Areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions upon completion of construction activities through soil grading and grass seeding. Only minor, temporary impacts to existing vegetation during construction are anticipated to occur. Therefore, no significant long-term impacts to terrestrial habitat are anticipated as part of the PAA.

As no construction activities or removal of vegetation would be implemented, no impacts to terrestrial habitat would occur from the NAA.

3.5 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 Maps (FIRM) were reviewed for portions of the proposed project that would be located within the floodplain of Big Sandy River (https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones). Portions of the waterline extension would be located in Zone AE, the 1-percent chance of a flood event in a given year. However, there are no flood sensitive components associated with the project and all infrastructure will be placed underground resulting in no change in grade or elevation. Any necessary Floodplain Development Permits will be obtained prior to construction. The PAA meets the intent of EO 11988 and no significant impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the PAA.

As no construction related activities would be implemented, no impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the NAA.

3.6 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. The majority of the project is within previously disturbed areas and utility rights-of-ways. Coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on January 6, 2015 determined that the project area is located in the right-of-way and therefore is not subject to FPPA.

Likewise, there are no direct impacts to Prime and Unique Farmland anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.7 Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality

The project is within the Big Sandy Watershed which is part of the Lower Ohio basin. According to the 2016 WV Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, the Ohio basin has almost no miles in good condition and over a quarter of the streams are in poor condition. Streams within the Big Sandy Watershed are listed as impaired for iron, fecal coliform, and biological. There are no Sole Source Aquifers in the project area.

Implementation of the PAA would result in the crossing of up to four streams. Direct impacts to streams would be minor and temporary due to the short duration and through utilization of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Permanent disturbance to streams would be avoided by utilizing proper construction techniques and restoration as soon as construction is complete. Prior to construction, coordination with the Corps' Regulatory Branch shall be completed under the Clean Water Act and all Federal and State permits, such as a verification under Nationwide Permit 12 for Utility lines, shall be obtained. Additionally, a general NPDES permit for the proposed collection system improvements would be required due to the size of the construction area. Indirect impacts associated with run-off and erosion due to installation of a waterlines may temporarily impact water quality in the area. These construction related impacts would be short-term and minor and mitigated through the use of BMPs such as silt fences and temporary seeding throughout the project area to prevent runoff into adjacent surface waters. The local Sponsor would be responsible for obtaining any necessary permits prior to construction. Based on the above, implementation of the PAA would not result in significant adverse short or long-term environmental impacts to aquatic habitat and water quality.

Under the NAA, no aquatic impacts would occur and water quality in the project area would remain unchanged.

3.8 Wetlands

National Wetland Inventory Maps (NWI) were reviewed for the proposed project area and a site reconnaissance field investigation was conducted to determine the validity of NWI Maps. NWI maps indicated that there are no wetlands adjacent to the project area and the site reconnaissance confirmed that no wetlands are located within the proposed project area.

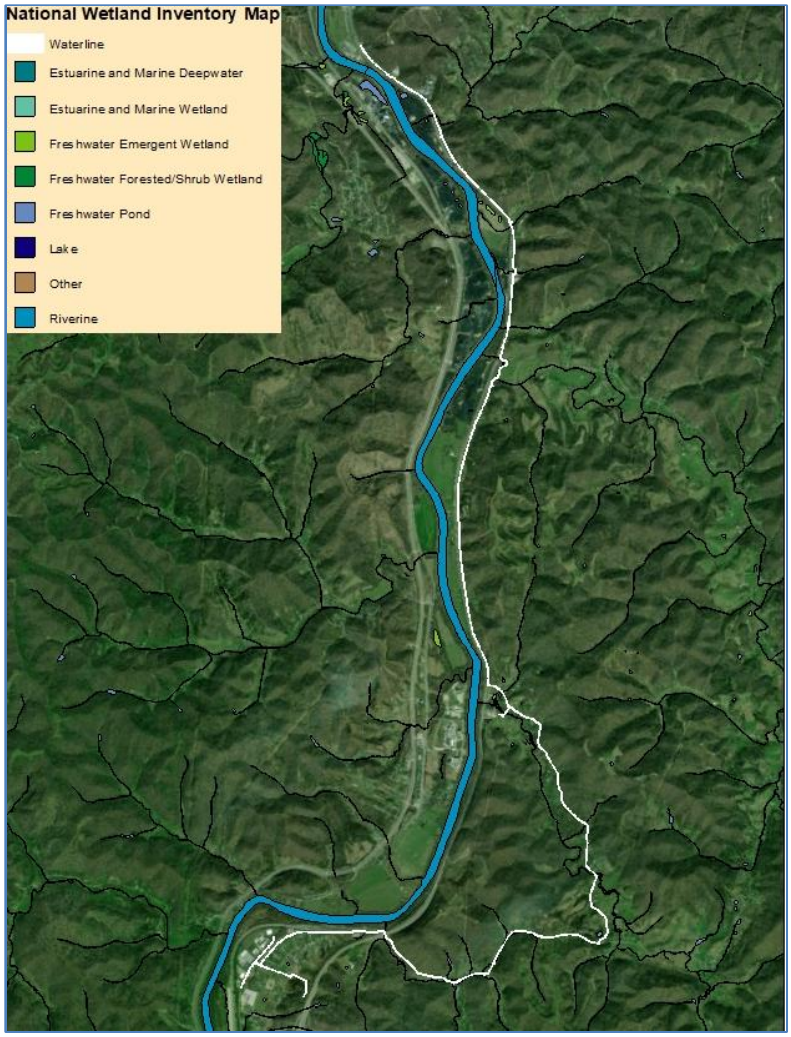

Figure 2: National Wetland Inventory Maps

No impacts to wetlands are anticipated as part of the PAA or NAA.

3.9 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.

3.10 Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW)

A Limited Phase 1 HTRW Environmental Site Assessment was conducted for the City of Kenova, Prichard Waterline Extension Project to identify environmental conditions and to identify the potential presence of HTRW contamination located in the project's construction work limits. After review of the Limited Phase I HTRW investigation, Corps' HTRW staff determined that no further HTRW action is required. Therefore, no impacts to HTRW are

anticipated with the PAA. A clearance memorandum was signed by Corps' HTRW staff on October 23, 2017.

The NAA would not result in ground disturbing activities. Therefore, no direct construction related HTRW impacts would be associated with the NAA.

3.11 Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800), the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was consulted regarding the proposed project. The Corps assessed site conditions for the proposed project and considers the majority of the site to be disturbed with no potential to impact archeological resources. However, there are three areas within the project boundary that have potential to contain archeological material, but some disturbance is known to exist. The Corps Huntington District recommended monitoring in three select locations along the waterline path would be needed in-place of an archeological survey for the entirety of the project, which had been coordinated by the City of Kenova's contractor prior to Corps involvement in the project. On January 16, 2020, the SHPO concurred with the Corps determination for monitoring during construction in-place of archeological surveys. An archeological monitoring report will be provided to the SHPO following construction activities within the three defined areas. Additionally, the SHPO concurred that no architectural resources eligible for or included in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the proposed project. Therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d) (1) (i), the Huntington District has fulfilled its obligation under Section 106. See Appendix B for coordination letters.

If unanticipated archaeological deposits or human remains are discovered during construction, all work near the location of the discovery shall cease and the Project Manager and Huntington District Archaeologist shall be contacted immediately. The West Virginia State Police, the Wayne County Coroner, and SHPO must also be notified immediately if human remains are discovered.

Under the NAA, no construction related actions would be implemented, so no significant detrimental impacts to cultural resources would occur.

3.12 Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the project area is within the range of the Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bat, and Gray bat. The proposed project would primarily occur in previously disturbed areas and no tree clearing is anticipated. E.L Robinson coordinated this action in December 2014 with the USFWS and received concurrence with a no effect determination in January 2015. As the project would not entail any tree clearing, the Corp's Huntington has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on listed bat species. No further coordination under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act or Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act is required.

3.13 Air Quality

According to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection website, Wayne County is classified as "in attainment" for all criteria pollutants. Under the PAA, emissions from construction equipment would occur during the construction period. Contractors would be required to operate all equipment in accordance with local, state and Federal regulations. The PAA is exempt through 40 CFR Part 93.153 from making a conformity determination, since estimated emissions from construction equipment would not be expected to exceed deminimis levels, or have direct emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursor. Any impacts would be short-term, localized and would occur during construction activities. Impacts to air quality under the PAA would be temporary during construction and would be considered minor.

No impacts to air quality are anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.14 Noise

Noise associated with the PAA would be limited to constructed related sounds 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 3.1 below), for consideration of hearing protection or the need to administer sound reduction controls.

Table 1 - 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 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 during daylight hours; therefore a reasonable exposure time of two hours would be expected during the time residents may be home during 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 and businesses (within 25-100 feet). A maximum noise exposure of approximately 98 dBA, for one hour should occur if equipment were within 10 feet of homes and business. 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 while residents are inside their homes. 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 7-75 dBA at 100 feet. Residents being exposed to these noise levels would occur if and/or when residents are home and outdoors.

Due to daytime construction and the short and limited duration of elevated noise levels associated with the PAA, impacts from the noise to local residences would be temporary and minor. No long-term significant noise impacts are expected with the PAA.

There would be no change in noise and thus no impact under the NAA.

3.15 Environmental Justice and Protection of Children

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 2018 population estimate for Wayne County was 1,792,147 and does not contain significant minority populations. The census indicates Wayne County is 93.5% white and has a median household income of $44,921 compared with the median household income of $36,875 for the State of West Virginia. Individuals residing in the county below the poverty level is 17.8% compared to 20.9% statewide.

EO 13045 requires each Federal agency “to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children” and “ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.” This EO was prompted by the recognition that children, still undergoing physiological growth and development, are more sensitive to adverse environmental health and safety risks than adults. The potential for impacts on the health and safety of children is greater where projects are located near residential areas.

Implementation of the PAA would provide residents, including children, with a safe and reliable water service, thereby improving the conditions in the service area. No homes or buildings would be adversely impacted by the proposed project; therefore, the PAA meets the directive of EO

12989 and EO 13045 by avoiding any disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low income populations or children.

No impacts to minority populations, low-income populations, and children would occur under the NAA.

3.16 Aesthetics

The project area is a rural community consisting primarily of residential properties, small commercial and industrial properties. Temporary disturbance of the local aesthetics would be anticipated during construction of the PAA water extension; however after construction the excavated areas would be restored to original conditions.

Neither the PAA nor NAA would significantly impact local aesthetics.

3.17 Transportation and Traffic

The proposed waterline upgrade and extension would be within the road rights-of way. Construction of the PAA in and along road rights-of-way would involve some delays and potential detours in the normal traffic flow. If detours would occur, they would be relatively minor and temporary in nature. Construction on or near road surfaces would be in compliance with standard traffic controls to minimize traffic disruptions and avoid public safety problems. Impacts anticipated to occur from the PAA would be minimal and temporary in nature.

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

3.18 Health and Safety

The PAA has been designed to provide a safe, reliable public water system to serve residents in the project area that are currently experiencing water loss. Additionally, providing fire flow to meet the need of industrial and commercial facilities in the project area would provide a safe fire protection service. Providing improvements and extending service to new customers is necessary to provide a safe and reliable public water service to the community. Therefore, the PAA is anticipated to have a long-term beneficial impact on health and safety of the residents in the project area.

Under the NAA residents would continue to rely on a system that experiences frequent water loss and would not have adequate fire protection service, which pose health and safety concerns that could cause minor to potentially significant negative impacts on the community.

3.19 Cumulative Effects

The Corps must consider the cumulative effects of the proposed project on the environment as stipulated by 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 a water system upgrade and extension project would have minimal and insignificant negative impacts on the environment. Long-term, beneficial effects would result from the project and would include improved health and safety living conditions. 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 Big Sandy Watershed Basin.

Streams within the Big Sandy Watershed are listed in the WVDEP's Integrated Water Quality as impaired for iron, fecal coliform, and biological. In the past, other villages within the watershed have performed upgrades to existing water and wastewater systems. These past actions had similar temporary impacts but no significant cumulative impact. Watershed studies for the Big Sandy River Basin have been undertaken by both the Corps and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but currently, no programs are active. Past and current efforts in the basin include implementation of flood risk management measures under the Corps 202 authority. In the future, watershed programs may address other maintenance activities and other Corps Section 202 flood risk management projects may be implemented. Impairment of the Big Sandy Watershed Basin is expected to continue.

Section 3.0 documents the existing environment and potential environmental effects of the PAA and NAA with respect to existing conditions. The effects of the PAA, as discussed beforehand, are localized and minor. Past actions that may have resulted in similar effects may include wastewater or water infrastructure improvement actions. All required environmental reviews for this proposed project have been completed, which identified no adverse cumulative effects. In scoping cumulative effects issues, no resources were identified as having a potential to be significantly affected with the completion of the PAA. Only minor and temporary impacts to ecological resources would be sustained with the implementation of the PAA. These resources would be 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 to the area. The significance of this action on health and safety would be positive. Given that the current program remains 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.

4.0 Status of Environmental Compliance

The PAA will be in full compliance with all local, state, and Federal statues as well as Executive Orders prior to the issuance of a FONSI. Compliance is documented below in Table 2.

Table 2 - Environmental Compliance Status

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			N/A
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		
Executive Order 13045 Protection of Children	X		

5.0 REQUIRED COORDINATION

5.1 Agencies Contacted

Direct coordination with the WVDEP, NRCS, SHPO, and USFWS was completed. Agency correspondence is included in Appendix B.

5.2 Public Review and Comments

The 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 was published in the local newspaper, The Herald Dispatch, advising the public of this document's availability for review and comment. A copy of the EA was also be placed in the Ceredo-Kenova Public Library and made available on-line at ***http://www.lrh.Corps.army.mil/Missions/PublicReview.aspx***. The mailing list for the EA is located in Appendix C.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The City of Kenova is proposing to replace, upgrade, and extend the water infrastructure within the project area to reduce water loss and to provide fire protection service and the quantity of water needed for potential economic development within the industrial area of Prichard. By providing a safe and reliable water system, the proposed project is anticipated to have long-term beneficial impacts for residents in the project area and surrounding area by providing a safe reliable water system. No significant, adverse, short-term or long-term impacts have been identified as a result of implementation of the proposed improvement project.

The proposed project would take place on previously disturbed land. Health and safety 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 or natural environment.

7.0 LIST OF INFORMATION PROVIDERS AND PREPARERS

The following agencies were involved in preparation of the EA.

E.L. Robinson Engineering
5088 Washington Street
Charleston, WV 25313

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
Planning Branch
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701

8.0 REFERENCES

Council for Environmental Quality
1996 Draft Guidance for Addressing Environmental Justice under NEPA. 1996.

Council for Environmental Quality
1997 Considering cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Federal Emergency Management Agency 2019 Floodplain Maps Website:
https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home

Schomer, Paul
2001 *A White Paper: Assessment of Noise Annoyance*. Schomer and Associates

U.S. Census Bureau
2020 American FactFinder Website:
https://www.quickfacts.census.gov

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2020 National Wetlands Inventory website:
https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2020a Information for Planning and Conservation website:
https://www.fws.gov/ipac

U.S. Geological Survey
2019 StreamStats: Streamflow Statistics and Spatial Analysis Tools for Water- Resources Application. StreamStats Application Website:
https://streamstats.usgs.gov/ss/