

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Section 594

Culpepper Water System Improvement Project Fayette County, Ohio

1. Members of my staff have conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA), in the overall public interest, which considers potential impacts on the human environment from the proposed Water System Improvement Project, located in the Fayette County, Ohio. The Preferred Action Alternative would entail construction and installation of approximately 10,650 linear feet of 12 inch, 8 inch, and 6 inch water main and one storage tank. The new water main will replace and upgrade the existing old, undersized, and failing system. The proposed action will also provide upgraded water service to the new Miami Trace School District campus. The proposed storage tank would increase storage capacity and supply adequate pressure to allow for fire suppression capabilities.
2. The possible consequences of the proposed action have been studied for environmental, cultural, and social well-being effects.
3. The Preferred Action Alternative (PAA) and the No Action Alternative (NAA) were the only alternatives carried forward for detailed evaluation. Primary ecological impacts from the PAA would be the effects of construction, which are considered to be minor and temporary. The PAA would be expected to have beneficial long-term impacts on public health and safety and water quality. No threatened or endangered species or any associated critical habitat would be impacted by the PAA.

Under the NAA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) would not provide the funding for the project. Consequently, under the NAA Fayette County would be unable to maintain the existing degraded and failing Culpepper Area public water system and would not be able to upgrade public water service to the Miami Trace School District Campus.

4. An evaluation of the PAA and NAA 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 PAA to the human and natural environment in the draft EA. The PAA would have no effect on sites of significant archaeological or historical importance. All potential adverse impacts of the proposed action would be temporary and minor.

b. Social Well-Being Considerations. No significant economic or social well-being impacts that are both adverse and unavoidable are foreseen as a result of the PAA. Temporary and minor disturbances to noise and traffic are anticipated effects of the PAA. The communities in the Culpepper area would benefit from the proposed action through the water system improvements.

c. Coordination with Resource and Other Agencies. Pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1958 as amended, coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been conducted. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1970, as amended, the PAA would have no effect on listed species. Coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act has been conducted. There would be no effect to any rare, threatened, or endangered species or sensitive habitats within the project area. The project would be conducted in accordance with the Clean Water Act. Finally, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, coordination with Ohio History Connection has been conducted. No historic properties would be affected by the proposed undertaking. Appropriate measures and best management practices have been identified and incorporated into the plan.

d. Other Public Interest Considerations. There has been no opposition to the PAA expressed by state or local governments, or organized environmental groups, and there are no unresolved issues regarding the implementation of the PAA.

5. I find the PAA has been planned in accordance with current authorization as described in the EA. The PAA is consistent with national policy, statutes and administrative directives. This determination is based on thorough analysis and evaluation of the PAA and NAA. In conclusion, I find that the proposed water system improvement project in the Culpepper Area of Fayette County, Ohio, would have no significant adverse effect on the quality of the human and/or natural environment and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Philip M. Secrist, III
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer