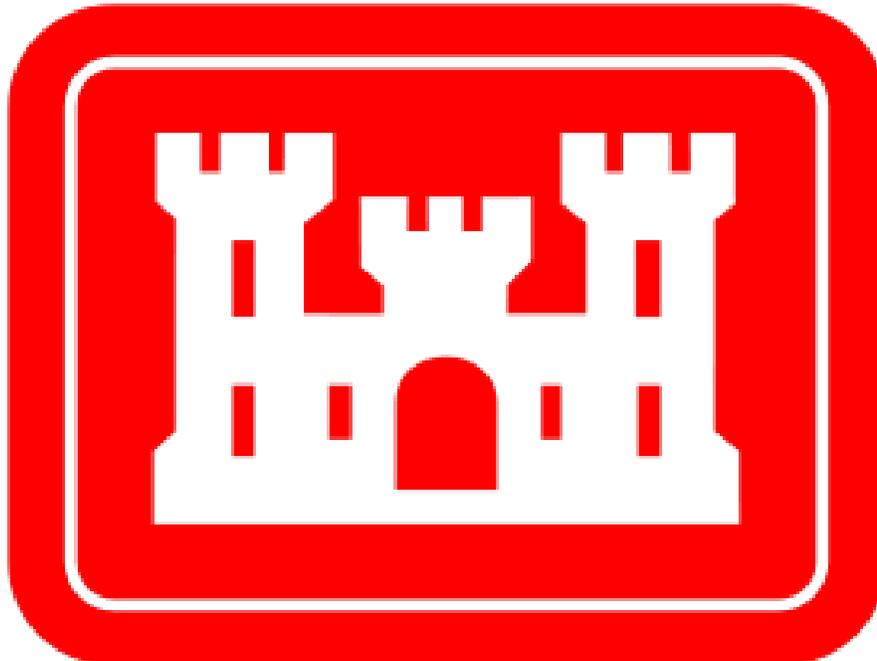


Environmental Assessment

**Section 594 City of Coshocton
Waterline Extension and Replacement Project
Coshocton County, Ohio**



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

June 2020



Executive Summary

The City of Coshocton is proposing to design and construct a waterline extension and replacement project to install water supply lines located along Hal Kar Road, Jo Ann Road, and Kethrose Road. The extension project would also include improvements to the West Lafayette Water Treatment Plant (WTP), West Lafayette North Water Tank, West Lafayette South Water Tank, and Coshocton Water Treatment Plant and replacement of existing residential and commercial water meters located within the Village of West Lafayette. . Additions to existing infrastructure are required to provide water service to the West Lafayette area. This area currently relies on aging water meters that are not compatible with the City of Coshocton. The proposed infrastructure would enable existing supply wells to be abandoned and decommissioning of the West Lafayette WTP.

The Proposed Action Alternative would consist of installation of approximately 4,200 linear feet of 6-inch ductile iron waterline along Hal Kar Road, Jo Ann Road, and Kethrose Lane; replacement of existing water meters located within Village of West Lafayette; installation of a fixed base station for remote reading on the new water meters; removal of the existing treatment equipment and installation of piping, valves and controls at the West Lafayette WTP; installation of new radios to monitor the tank water levels at the West Lafayette North and South Tanks; and installation of additional controls to communicate with the West Lafayette WTP at the Coshocton WTP.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the City of Coshocton and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), established under the authority of Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-109), as amended, which provides authority for the Corps to establish a program to provide environmental assistance to Non-Federal entities in Ohio. This law provides design and construction assistance for water related environmental infrastructure projects to Non-Federal interests in Ohio. Funding, as established under Section 594, shall be shared 75% Federal and 25% Non-Federal (State and Local).

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



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Acronyms

BMPs- Best Management Practices
BUSTR – Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations
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
FAA – Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM – Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA – Farmland Protection Policy Act
HTRW – Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste
NAA – No Action Alternative
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
NWI – National Wetland Inventory Map
PAA – Proposed Action Alternative
PCS – Petroleum Contaminated Soil
RCAP – Rural Community Assistance Program
RCRA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office
UPUS - Unrestricted Portable Use Standard
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VAP – Voluntary Action Program
VOC – Volatile Organic Compound
WRDA – Water Resource Development Act
WTP – Water Treatment Plant



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 Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Background

The City of Coshocton is implementing a waterline extension and replacement project to deliver water from the city to the Village of West Lafayette (Village) and to improve the Village's existing infrastructure. Only a portion of the proposed project is funded by the Corps in partnership with the City of Coshocton under the Section 594 Environmental Infrastructure Program. The proposed project evaluated in this Environmental Assessment (EA) is a separable component of the larger effort which can function without implementation of other project features.

This EA examines the potential environmental impacts of the waterline extension and replacement project as proposed by the City of Coshocton. 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 extend and replace existing infrastructure within the water distribution system, which is currently experiencing low flow insufficient for fire protection and is threatened by ground water contamination. In addition, water meters located within the Village of West Lafayette (Village) have reached the end of their useful life and are not compatible with the City of Coshocton. These conditions affect the operations of the water distribution system and could pose health and safety risks to residents. Without the proposed project, contamination of the groundwater supply wells would continue to impact public water, and issue of low water pressure would not be addressed. The project would also involve decommissioning the West Lafayette WTP, abandoning existing supply wells, and other electrical and control work. The need for extending and replacing the water distribution system in the proposed area is to provide residents with a reliable and safe water service.



The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the City of Coshocton and the Corps established under the authority of Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 (Public Law 106-109), as amended, which provides authority for the Corps to establish a program to provide environmental assistance to Non-Federal entities in Ohio. This law provides design and construction assistance for water related environmental infrastructure projects to Non-Federal interests in Ohio, including projects for wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) 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 installation of approximately 4,200 linear feet of new 6-inch ductile iron waterline along Hal Kar Road, Jo Ann Road, and Kethrose Lane that would connect to a proposed 8-inch and 12-inch waterline that is being constructed along Coshocton County Route 16; replacement of existing residential and commercial water meters located within the Village; installation of a fixed base station for remote reading on the new water meters; removal of the existing treatment equipment and installation of piping, valves and controls at the West Lafayette WTP; installation of new radios to monitor the tank water levels at the West Lafayette North and South Tanks; and installation of additional controls to communicate with the West Lafayette WTP at the Coshocton WTP. Installation of waterline infrastructure would occur within county, township, and Village rights-of-way, which is previously disturbed. Open trenching and directional boring would occur during construction of waterlines. The proposed work at the WTPs and water tanks would be confined to their existing footprints. Following construction, all areas would be returned to preexisting conditions through soil grading and seed planting.

2.2 No Action Alternative (NAA)

Under the NAA, the Corps would not provide funding for the project. Additionally, the City of Coshocton would not replace or extend this separable component of the larger waterline system project. The community would continue utilizing an aging and deteriorating waterline system. Further deterioration of the waterline system would likely continue and result in inadequate fire protection. Health risks could become a possibility due to the failing infrastructure and ground water contamination. This alternative was considered unacceptable due to the continued failure of infrastructure and potential health hazards resulting from these failures. However, it is included in the alternatives analysis to establish a baseline condition for existing human and natural environment conditions, to allow comparison between future without and with project actions, and to determine potential environmental effects of proposed projects with 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 project includes the installation of waterlines along Hal Kar Road, Jo Ann Road, and Kethrose Lane; replacement of existing residential and commercial water meters located within the Village; decommissioning of the West Lafayette WTP; abandonment of existing wells at the West Lafayette WTP; and other electrical and control work at the WTPs and water tanks. See Appendix A for project location maps.

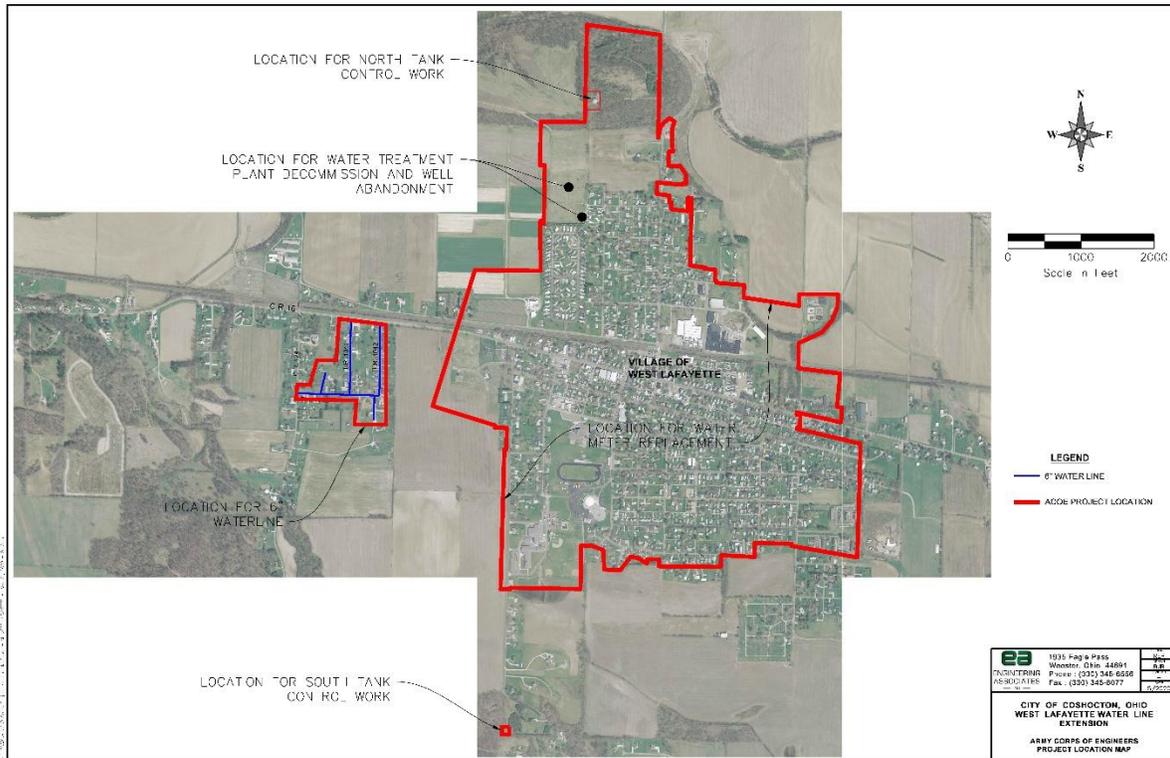


Figure 1: Project Location

3.2 Land Use

Land use in the immediate project is a mixture of commercial, residential, and agricultural within an urban-type setting. The proposed waterlines and water meters would be installed within public road, railway and Village property, the majority of which are previously disturbed areas. Work at the WTPs and water tanks would be confined to their existing footprints. Land contours would be reclaimed upon completion of the installation.

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



3.3 Climate

Coshocton 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 high temperatures during the summer months of May to September are within the range of 70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit, with periods of hot and humid conditions in late summer months. The coldest season lasts for three months from December to March with an average seasonal snowfall of 18 inches. The coldest month is typically January with an average low of 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Average annual rainfall is 40 inches with the spring being the wettest season.

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 open trenching and directional boring for the waterlines are implemented. Proposed work at the WTPs and water tanks would be confined to their existing footprints. Potential impacts to vegetation would be minimal and temporary. It is anticipated that no tree removal would be needed. If trees are in the construction alignment, the area would be directionally bored to avoid impacts. Trees that cannot be avoided would be removed during the designated clearing window. 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.

Without the proposed project, it is likely that existing waterlines would continue to experience low flow and the contamination plume at the groundwater supply wells would not be treated. This would pose a health risk to both humans and wildlife in the natural environment.

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 Tuscarawas River and Morgan Run (<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones>). The project components are located within the Zone X, which is an area of minimal flood hazard.



Underground infrastructure such as waterlines will result in no adverse impact to floodplain areas as they would be buried and result in no change in grade or elevation. The proposed work at the WTPs and water tanks would be confined to their existing footprint and is not anticipated to affect the floodplain. 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 entirety of the project is along roads, in urban area, and/or road right-of-way. The Corps' Huntington District has determined that due to the majority of the area being pre-disturbed and/or on urban lands, the FPPA would not apply to this proposed project and no impacts on prime or unique, statewide, or locally important farmland is expected to occur. Coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) determined that the project area is located in the right-of-way and/or committed to urban development 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 Morgan Run-Tuscarawas River Watershed. According to the Morgan Run Watershed Report <https://watersgeo.epa.gov/watershedreport/?comid=19391912>, the stream runs approximately 3.8 miles before emptying into the Hocking River. The stream flows along Morgan Run Road in Coshocton County, Ohio, and enters the Tuscarawas River approximately 2 miles east of Coshocton. There are no Sole Source Aquifers in the project area. The entire length of Morgan Run was found impaired due to pH, metals, and acid mine drainage. Surface water has been degraded throughout the watershed and the leading impacts are caused from ammonia, nutrients, metals, and pH.

Implementation of the PAA would not result in any new discharge of pollutants. The Corps Regulatory Division has determined that the PAA will neither result in a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States nor involve work in, on, or under a navigable water of the United States. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act is not required and a section 404(b)(1) analysis, Section 404 permit (individual or Nationwide) and associated Section 401 permit under the Clean Water Act is not required.

There would be no stream crossings during construction; therefore there would be no impacts to aquatic habitat. In addition, a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the proposed waterline extension and replacement would be required due to the size of



the construction area. Indirect impacts associated with run-off and erosion due to installation of waterlines may temporarily impact water quality in the area. These construction related impacts would be short-term and mitigated through the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) throughout the project area to prevent runoff into adjacent surface waters. 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. In the long-term, implementation of the PAA is expected to have a positive impact on the aquatic habitat and water quality within the project area.

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 NEWI maps. NWI maps indicated that there are 0.01301 acre of two emergent wetlands located within the project area and two wetlands located adjacent to the project area. Wetlands situated in the project alignment would be horizontally directional bored or otherwise avoided to prevent impacts to these resources. Wetlands situated adjacent or in close proximity to the project area would be identified and locations communicated to ensure the contractor avoids these areas. There would be no disposal of brush, soils, or other debris in any streams, wetlands or surface waters. 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)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) NEPA Assist database and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) info database indicated the presence of one hazardous waste RCRA facility within the 0.25 mile search radius. According to the RCRAinfo database, the facility is located at 22440 County Road 124 and is listed as a small quantity generator in the Paint and Coating Manufacturing Industrial Classification. The proposed project would not affect the RCRA facility as construction is limited to the road rights-of-way. Additionally, a listing obtained from the Ohio Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks Regulation (BUSTR) identified no active underground storage tanks for the project area.

After review of the information provided by RCAP, the Corps' HTRW staff determined that no further HTRW action is required. Therefore, no impacts to HTRW are anticipated with the PAA. A clearance re-assessment memorandum was provided by Corps' HTRW staff on 21 May 2020.



The NAA would not result in ground disturbing activities. Therefore, no direct construction related HTRW impacts would be associated with the NAA. However, the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) threat at the groundwater supply wells would remain unsolved.

3.11 Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800), the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was consulted regarding the proposed project. The SHPO advised that although that a segment of the proposed extension line along Coshocton County Road 16 is near one National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) property, the Daniel Miller House, construction of the waterline would be confined to the existing road right-of-ways. Therefore, the proposed extension line would have no effect on the Daniel Miller House. No further cultural resources coordination is required unless the scope of the project changes. 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 Ohio State Police, the Coshocton County Coroner, and SHPO must also be notified immediately if human remains are discovered.

Under the NAA, no construction related actions would be implemented therefore, no significant 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 range of the Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bat, Clubshell, Purple cat's paw, Rayed bean, Sheepnose mussel, Fanshell, Pink mucket, Rabbitsfoot, and Snuffbox mussel.

The proposed project would primarily occur in previously disturbed areas and it is anticipated that no tree clearing would be required. If trees are in the construction alignment, the area would be directional bored to avoid impacts. Trees that cannot be avoided would be removed during the designated clearing window. Therefore, the Corps' Huntington District has determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the Indiana bat or Northern long-eared bat.

No construction related activities would take place with the proposed action that would directly disturb surface water resources. No stream crossings would occur. Additionally, a field habitat evaluation was conducted for state and Federally listed species on 27 January and 28 January 2020. According to the evaluation, streams in the project area do not appear to have the appropriate hydrology to support listed mussel populations. Therefore, the Corp's Huntington District has determined that there would be no effect to endangered or threatened aquatic species. Coordination under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination



Act is on-going and will be completed prior to execution of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

3.13 Air Quality

According to the USEPA website, Coshocton 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 de minimis 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.



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

Construction noise would be similar to that of farm equipment and other small machinery used in the local area. A backhoe, end loader, road grader and/or vibratory roller are examples of equipment that is likely to be used during construction. Each emits noise levels around 85 dBA at 45 feet. Construction equipment would be operated 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 Coshocton County was 36,629 and does not contain significant minority populations. The census indicates Coshocton County is 96.7% white and has a median household income of \$44,491, compared with the median household income of \$54,533 for the State of Ohio. Individuals residing in the county below the poverty level is 15.4% compared to 13.9% statewide. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Village of West Lafayette has a total population of 2,445 and a median household income of \$37,674.



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.

Service provided by the City of Coshocton waterline extension and replacement would grant all residents of the Village of West Lafayette and the commercial operations access to the new water source via the existing West Lafayette distribution system. Implementation of the PAA would provide residents, including children, with higher quality drinking water and lower water rates, thereby improving the living 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.

The NAA could result in children being exposed to unsafe and unreliable water from failing private wells and existing infrastructure, which could pose a safety and long-term health risk.

3.16 Aesthetics

The project area is a rural community consisting primarily of residential properties and small commercial properties. Temporary disturbance of the local aesthetics would be anticipated during construction of the PAA waterline extension and replacement; 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 waterlines would be within the road rights-of way. Construction of the PAA 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 safe, reliable drinking water to residents in the project area that are currently utilizing private wells or public water infrastructure that has deteriorated



past its useful life. Providing improvements and extending service to new customers is necessary to provide a potable source of water to the community. Therefore, the PAA is anticipated to have a long-term beneficial impact on the health and safety of residents in the project area.

Under the NAA, residents would continue to rely on private wells or experience deteriorating public water infrastructure, 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 waterline extension and replacement 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 and improved operations of an existing sanitary sewer system. 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 Morgan Run-Tuscarawas Watershed.

The Morgan Run-Tuscarawas Watershed is listed in the Ohio EPA's Integrated Water Quality Report for 2020 as a "Warmwater Habitat" and impaired aquatic life and recreational use. The report identifies pathogens and metals as the cause of impairment. In the past, other villages within the Tuscarawas River Watershed have performed upgrades to existing wastewater and water distribution systems. These past actions had similar temporary impacts but no significant cumulative impact. The Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) provides consulting services to help rural communities (fewer than 10,000 in population) address their drinking water and wastewater treatment needs. Each year, RCAP serves well over 200 communities in Ohio and leverage millions of dollars for water and sewer projects. Impairment



of the Morgan Run-Tuscarawas River Watershed is expected to continue but as communities continue to eliminate failing infrastructure and improve existing public wastewater and water distribution systems, a cleaner, healthier watershed would be possible. Water quality standards and regulations are expected to remain stringent in the future as today.

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. Future projects that would have similar impacts would be the proposed construction of a new wastewater treatment facility, force mainline construction and demolition of the existing wastewater treatment facility. This future project is to be funded by the USDA, Rural Development. 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 594 Program, to assist communities with installation and construction of water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Ohio is an additional benefit to the area. The significance of this action on health, safety, and water quality 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 statutes as well as Executive Orders prior to the issuance of a FONSI. Coordination with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service is on-going under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. 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	X		

**Table 2 - Environmental Compliance Status**

Table 2 - Environmental Compliance Status			
Liability Act			
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 Corp's Regulatory Division, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, NRCS, and SHPO 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 will be published in the local newspaper, The Coshocton Tribune, advising the public of this document's availability for review and comment. A copy of the EA will also be placed in the Coshocton 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 Coshocton is proposing to extend and replace existing waterline infrastructure. The current water distribution system has 875 service connections and services approximately 2,292 people. By providing safe and reliable water service, the proposed project is anticipated to have long-term beneficial impacts on health and safety for residents in the project area and surrounding area by eliminating failing infrastructure. 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.

Ohio RCAP - Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
127 South Front Street
Freemont, OH 43420

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

8.0 REFERENCES

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

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<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>

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<https://www.quickfacts.census.gov>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2019 National Wetlands Inventory website:
<https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2019a 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/>