

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 14 Emergency Streambank Protection Project Village of Pomeroy, 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 Emergency Streambank Protection Project, located in the Village of Pomeroy (Village), Ohio. The Recommended Plan would protect approximately 3,300 linear feet (LF) that is in immediate need of streambank protection. Implementation of the proposed protection measures will restore stability to the streambank and prevent failure that would impact SR 833 and adjacent utilities. Without treatment, the streambank would continue to undergo flood related erosion and failure, leading to the undercutting and collapse of SR 833. Failure to protect this road would result in loss of access to the only thoroughfare and endanger adjacent utilities and town infrastructure. Continued impacts include Ohio River water quality, failing streambank, occupational health safety hazards, and potential failure of SR 833 and adjacent infrastructure.

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

3. The Recommended Plan and the No Action Alternative (NAA) were the only alternatives carried forward for detailed evaluation. Primary ecological impacts from the Recommended Plan would be the effects of construction, which are considered to be minor and temporary. The Recommended Plan would be expected to have beneficial long-term impacts on water quality and health and safety which are currently impacted by streambank erosion and failure resulting in discharge of fill material into the Ohio River.

Under the NAA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) would not provide the funding for the project. The 'No Action' alternative would result in continued bank erosion and wall failure due to Ohio River flood flows, leading to the collapse of approximately 3,300 LF of streambank and adverse impacts to SR 833. Failure to protect the streambank and the road would result in loss of access for the public, industrial, and commercial operations within the Village, along with through traffic on SR 833.

4. An evaluation of the Recommended Plan 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 Recommended Plan to the human and natural environment in the draft EA. All potential adverse impacts of the proposed action would be temporary and minor. In addition, for reasons described in the EA, there is no practicable alternative to Federal action in the floodplain.

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 Recommended Plan. The community would benefit from the proposed action through the stabilization of 3,300 LF of streambank that would protect SR 833 and adjacent infrastructure.

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 Recommended Plan would have no effect on listed species. Coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resource Section 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 the State Historic Preservation Office 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 Recommended Plan expressed by state or local governments, or organized environmental groups, and there are no unresolved issues regarding the implementation of the Recommended Plan.

5. I find the Recommended Plan has been planned in accordance with current authorization as described in the EA. The Recommended Plan is consistent with national policy, statutes and administrative directives. This determination is based on thorough analysis and evaluation of the Recommended Plan and NAA. In conclusion, I find that the proposed Emergency Streambank Protection Project in the Village of Pomeroy, 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.

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District Engineer