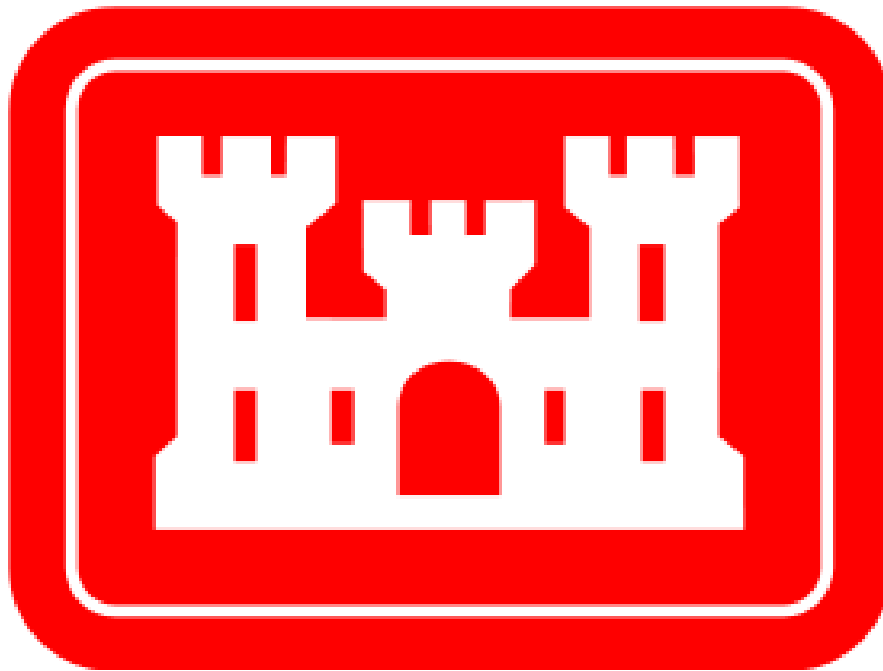


Draft Environmental Assessment
Section 594 Village of New Boston
Phase 8B Combined Sewer Overflows Improvements
Scioto County, Ohio



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
Huntington, West Virginia
March 2021



Environmental Assessment
Section 594 Village of New Boston
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Scioto County, Ohio
Executive Summary

The Village of New Boston is proposing to design and construct a combined sewer overflow improvements project to extend sanitary sewer located on West Avenue. The improvements project would also include metering installation, and if funding is available, structural lining of sanitary sewers and manholes. Improvements to existing infrastructure are required in order to continue the Village's effort to separate the combined sewer system and reduce combined sewer overflow discharges. In addition to the above improvements, the proposed project would also involve replacement of the Webb Alley Pump Station located on Millbrook Avenue. Storm sewer installation is included in Phase 8B but is not funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The proposed infrastructure would address health, safety and environmental impacts associated with combined sewer overflow events.

The Proposed Action Alternative would consist of extending the sanitary sewer on West Avenue approximately 730 linear feet to Grace Street and connecting it to the existing interceptor to the West Avenue Pumping Station; replacement of the Webb Alley Pump Station and its dry well pumping station; installation of metering at the intersection of Rhodes Avenue and Lakeview Avenue; and if funding is available, installation of structural lining in several sanitary sewers and manholes.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the Village of New Boston and the Corps, established under the authority of Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53), 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.



SECTION 594 VILLAGE OF NEW BOSTON
PHASE 8B COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW IMPROVEMENTS
SCIOTO COUNTY, OHIO
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	3
3.0	Environmental Setting and Consequences	3
3.1	Location	4
3.2	Land Use	5
3.3	Climate	5
3.4	Terrestrial Habitat	6
3.5	Floodplains	6
3.6	Prime and Unique Farmland	7
3.7	Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality	7
3.8	Wetlands	8
3.9	Wild and Scenic Rivers	8
3.10	Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Wastes	8
3.11	Cultural Resources	8
3.12	Threatened and Endangered Species	9
3.13	Air Quality	10
3.14	Noise	10
3.15	Environmental Justice and Protection of Children	11
3.16	Aesthetics	12
3.17	Transportation and Traffic	12
3.18	Health and Safety	12
3.19	Cumulative Effects	13
3.20	Relationship Between Local and Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity	14
3.21	Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitments of Resources	14
4.0	Status of Environmental Compliance	14



5.0	Required Coordination	15
5.1	Agencies Contacted	15
5.2	Public Review and Comments	15
6.0	Conclusion	15
7.0	List of Information Providers and Preparers	16
8.0	References	16

List of Tables

Table 1	Permissible Non-Department of Defense Noise Exposures	10
Table 2	U.S. Census Bureau Data	12
Table 3	Status of Environmental Compliance	15

List of Appendices

Appendix A	Exhibits
Appendix B	Agency Coordination
Appendix C	Mailing List



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 Strand Associates, Inc. in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Background

The Village of New Boston (Village) is located in Scioto County, Ohio. Four pumping stations are located within the Village, and all sanitary flow in the Village eventually reaches the West Avenue Pumping Station where it is pumped to the Lawson Run Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in the City of Portsmouth. All wastewater treatment and pumping for the Village is performed by the City of Portsmouth, and all equipment for pumping is operated and maintained by the City of Portsmouth through a 30-year agreement. The Village received a United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Order in 2006 for failure to comply with the Clean Water Act. In 2019, the Order was closed, but the Village is continuing its efforts to separate the combined sewer system and reduce combined sewer overflow discharges.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed improvements to the wastewater collection system as proposed by the Village. 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), but it is anticipated that an EIS would not be required. An EIS is typically conducted where significant human or natural resources exist and the implementation of a proposed project may have significant 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 is to provide improvements to the Village's wastewater collection system. The existing Webb Alley Pump Station has an underground dry well that is difficult to access, includes equipment and controls that have exceeded their useful life, requires confined space entry for maintenance, and has influent screens that are difficult to clean without damaging metering equipment. In addition, combined sewer overflow (CSO) flow data suggests that the West Avenue Pump Station may be overflowing into the Webb Alley System at the intersection of Rhodes Avenue and Lakeview Avenue during significant wet weather events. The need for CSO improvements in the proposed area is to continue the Village's effort to separate the combined sewer system (CSS) and reduce CSO discharges.



The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the Village and the Corps established under the authority of Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 (Public Law 106-53), 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 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 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 include extension of the sanitary sewer along West Avenue approximately 730 linear feet (LF) to Grace Street where it will connect to the existing interceptor for the West Avenue Pump Station; replacement of the Webb Alley Pump Station's dry well located on Millbrook Avenue with a new submersible pump station that uses chopper pumps; installation of metering at the intersection of Rhodes Avenue and Lakeview Avenue; and if funding is available, installation of structural lining in several sanitary sewers and manholes. The sanitary sewer would connect to the West Avenue Pump Station proposed in Phase 9. Additionally, the chopper pumps proposed for the Webb Alley Pump Station would be easier to maintain than the dry wells and eliminate the need for influent screens.

2.2 No Action Alternative (NAA)

Under the NAA, the Corps would not provide funding for the project and the Village would not improve the wastewater system. Without this proposed project, further deterioration of the wastewater system would likely continue and result in excessive inflow and infiltration problems and treatment concerns during wet weather events. 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 NAA as well as with implementation of the 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, adverse, 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.
- Moderate – A measureable and adverse effect to a resource. An intermediate impact that may or may not be readily obvious but is within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts may or may not result in the need for mitigation.
- 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.
- Adverse – A measurable and negative effect to a resource. May be minor to major, resulting in reduced conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.
- 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 4.19 below

3.1 Location



The affected area is located within the Village of New Boston in Scioto County, Ohio. The wastewater collection system improvements would be located within right-of-ways and previously disturbed areas. The proposed spoil site is located on 892 Simon Miller Road in Wheelersburg, Ohio and located six miles from the project area. Figure 1 below shows the overall project location, and Figure 2 shows the location of the spoil site. See Appendix A for project location maps.



Figure 1: Overall Project Location



Figure 2: Location of the Proposed Spoil Site

3.2 Land Use

Land use in the vicinity of the PAA is primarily residential and commercial within a rural setting. Land use surrounding the Village is primarily rural. All of the wastewater improvements would be constructed in road right-of-ways or previously disturbed areas. The proposed spoil site is privately owned and has been used for previous projects, including Phase 6 and 7 for the New Boston CSO Improvements Project and state highway projects.

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

3.3 Climate



New Boston 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 up 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 12 inches. The coldest month is typically January with an average low of 22 degrees Fahrenheit. Average rainfall is 41 inches with 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 regard 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 or NAA.

3.4 Terrestrial Habitat

The PAA would be constructed in previously disturbed areas, including road right-of-ways, and there would be no tree clearing required. In addition, no tree clearing would be required at the spoil site. An estimation of up to 3,800 cubic yards of material is anticipated to be disposed of at the proposed spoil site. Potential impacts to vegetation would be minimal and temporary. 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, under the NAA it is likely that the Village will continue to experience CSO events that pollute the natural environment and pose health risks to wildlife and their habitats.

3.5 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988, as amended, 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 and the proposed project is located in areas with reduced flood risk due to a levee; Zone X, which are areas with 0.2% annual chance flood hazard; and areas of minimal flood hazard (<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones>). Project components located within areas with reduced flood risk due to a levee include the replacement Webb Alley Pump Station, metering installation, and the proposed sanitary sewer along West Avenue. If funding is available for the proposed structural lining, it would be located within areas of reduced flood risk due to a levee and Zone X.

Underground infrastructure such as sanitary sewer will result in no adverse impact to floodplain areas as they would be buried and result in no change in grade or elevation. Coordination with



the local floodplain administrator was conducted on 30 December 2020. The local floodplain administrator determined that the “proposed work is in a FEMA designated Flood Zone X and therefore is not in a special flood hazard area.” The PAA meets the intent of EO 11988, *Floodplain Management*, 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 area is located within road right-of-ways and previously disturbed areas. The Corps’ Huntington District has determined that due to the majority of the area being pre-disturbed, 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. On 10 December 2020, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) determined the project area is located in the right-of-way and therefore is not subject to FPPA.

There are no impacts to Prime and Unique Farmland anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.7 Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality

The project is within the Munn Run-Ohio River Watershed (HUC 05090103 06 06). The watershed encompasses 34.85 square miles and borders the Carroll Run-Scioto River Watershed. In 2020, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) listed the Munn Run-Ohio River Watershed in the Section 303(d) list of impaired waters for aquatic life and recreation uses. Identified sources of impairment for the watershed include organic enrichment and *Escherichia Coli* (*E. coli*). Implementation of the PAA would not result in any new discharge of pollutants. There are no Sole Source Aquifers in the project area.

There would be no stream crossings during construction; therefore there would be no impacts to aquatic habitat or discharges of materials into waters. It is anticipated that a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 404 permit (individual or Nationwide), and associated Section 401 permit under the Clean Water Act will not be required. If conditions change and it is determined that waters may be impacted coordination with the Huntington District Corps’ Regulatory Branch will be required and all applicable permits shall be obtained.

The project would impact over an acre, and thus a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the proposed wastewater 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 sanitary sewer 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), such as placement of silt fences, 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. 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 by reducing CSOs.

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

3.8 Wetlands

National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps were reviewed for the proposed project area. NWI mapping did not identify any wetlands within the project area. A site reconnaissance was conducted to determine the validity of the NWI maps that confirmed that no wetlands are located within the proposed project area.

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 Phase 1 HTRW Environmental Site Assessment was conducted for the Village of New Boston Wastewater System Improvements Project to identify environmental conditions and to identify the potential presence of HTRW contamination located in the project's construction work limits. Below are the following Phase 1 HTRW findings:

The Corps HTRW staff determined the Phase 1 HTRW report showed no evidence of recognized environmental contamination within the property and 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 30 October 2020.

The NAA would not result in ground disturbing activities, and thus would not disturb areas of potential HTRW contamination. Therefore, there are no HTRW impacts 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 Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was consulted regarding the proposed project. On 14 December 2020, the SHPO responded in a letter that the proposed undertaking “will have no effect on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places”. 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 Scioto County Coroner, and Ohio Historic Preservation Office 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) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool (Consultation Code: TAILS# 03E15000-2021-TA-0423), there are nine threatened and endangered species listed within the vicinity of the project. They are the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), fanshell (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), sheepnose mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*), snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*), running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), and Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*).

The proposed project would occur in previously disturbed land and it is anticipated that no tree clearing would be required. Therefore, the Corps’ Huntington District has determined that the project would have no effect to the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, running buffalo clover, small whorled pogonia, and Virginia spiraea.

No construction related activities would take place with the PAA that would directly disturb surface water resources, and no stream crossings would occur. Therefore, the Corps’ Huntington District has determined that there would be no effect to the listed mussel species. On 11 December 2020, USFWS responded in a letter that “there are no Federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area” and that “due to the project, type, size, and location, we do not anticipate adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate species”. No further coordination under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act is required.

The NAA would not result in additional ground disturbing activities or fill within waters. Therefore, there would be no effect to Federally Threatened and Endangered Species associated with the NAA.



3.13 Air Quality

According to the USEPA’s Greenbook “Current Nonattainment Counties for All Criteria Pollutants”, Scioto County is not currently a nonattainment area. Emissions from construction equipment would occur during the construction period. Contractors would operate all equipment in accordance with local, state, and Federal regulations. The PAA is exempted by 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, direct emissions of a criteria pollutant, or its precursors. Any impacts would be short-term, localized, and would occur only during construction phase activities. Impacts to air quality under the PAA would be temporary during construction and minor.

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

3.14 Noise

Noise associated with the PAA would be limited to that 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 *A White Paper: Assessment of Noise Annoyance*, 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 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 50 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 the 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 that are within 25-100 feet. A maximum noise exposure of approximately 98 dBA, for one hour could occur if equipment were within 10 feet of homes 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 70-75 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.

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 2019 population estimate for Scioto County was 75,314 and does not contain significant minority populations. The census indicates Scioto County is 94.4% white and has a median household income of \$39,731, compared with the median household income of \$54,533 for the State of Ohio. In addition, Scioto County contains significant low-income population. Individuals residing in the county below the poverty level is 22.6% compared to 13.9% 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. Individuals residing in the county below the age of 18 is 18.7% compared to 22.1% statewide. See Table 2 below for U.S. Census Bureau data.



Table 2 – U.S. Census Bureau Data		
	Scioto County, OH	State of Ohio
2019 Population Estimate	75,314	11,689,100
Median Household Income	\$39,731	\$54,533
Minority Population %	5.6%	18.3%
Low-Income Population %	22.6%	13.9%
Individuals Below 18	21.6%	22.1%

Service provided by the wastewater system improvements would serve residents who presently experience frequent overflow events during wet weather conditions, resulting in surface water contamination during CSO events. Implementation of the PAA would provide residents and children with a safe, reliable wastewater system, thereby improving the living environment for all residents. No homes or buildings would be impacted by the proposed project; therefore, the PAA meets the directive of EO 12898 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 overflow events during wet weather conditions, which could pose a safety and long-term health risk to low-income populations within the project area.

3.16 Aesthetics

Temporary disturbance of the local aesthetics would be anticipated during construction of the water system improvements; however after construction, the excavated sites would be restored to original conditions.

Neither the PAA nor NAA would significantly impact local aesthetics.

3.17 Transportation and Traffic

The majority of the proposed wastewater system would follow road right-of ways. Construction of the PAA in and along existing road right-of-ways would involve some delays and closures. During construction, temporary single-line closures may be needed, however, one lane would remain open to allow traffic to continue to pass through the area. Access to the spoil site would be managed by the property owner, and it is anticipated that a maximum of four trucks per day would be transporting materials to the spoil site. Transportation of materials to the spoil site is not expected to impact traffic. New permanent traffic patterns would not occur as a result of this project. It is not anticipated that any modifications to transportation routes would be necessary. Construction 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.

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 wastewater system to the residents of the project area that are currently utilizing an aged system. The existing system experiences significant inflow and infiltration problems during wet weather events. Providing improvements to the wastewater system is necessary to reduce the inflow and infiltration problems. Therefore, the PAA is anticipated to have a long-term, beneficial impact on health and safety for the residents in the project area.

Under the NAA, residents would continue to experience inflow and infiltration problems, perpetuating health and safety concerns that could cause 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 other 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 1502.21).

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 wastewater system improvement 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 the collection 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 Munn Run-Ohio River Watershed, which is part of the Little Scioto-Tygarts Watershed.

The Little Scioto-Tygarts Watershed is listed as impaired for various sources throughout the watershed. In the past, other villages within the watershed have performed upgrades to existing wastewater systems. These past actions had similar temporary impacts but no significant cumulative impact. Impairment of the Little Scioto-Tygarts Watershed is expected to continue



but as communities continue to improve existing public wastewater systems, a cleaner, healthier watershed would be possible. Water quality standards and regulations are expected to remain as stringent in the future as today.

Section 4.0 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. No reasonably foreseeable future actions that would have similar impacts as the proposed action were identified. In scoping cumulative effects issues, no resources were identified as having a potential to be significantly affected. 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.

3.20 Relationship Between Local and Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

The PAA would reduce the number of combined sewer overflow discharges into the Munn River-Ohio River Watershed. The reduction of CSO's could contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of long-term aquatic productivity within the Munn River-Ohio River Watershed by having a positive impact on aquatic habitat and water quality within the project area.

Under the NAA, no project would be implemented, therefore, the frequency of CSO's would not be reduced and water quality in the project area would remain unchanged.

3.21 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The PAA would not entail significant irretrievable or irreversible commitments of resources. Implementation of the PAA would only result in a minor, insignificant irretrievable/irreversible commitment of resources through the use of fossil fuels and materials required for the construction of the PAA.

The NAA would not entail significant irretrievable or irreversible commitments of resources since no project would be implemented.

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 issuance of a FONSI. Compliance is documented below in Table 2.

Table 3 - 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 Corps, Scioto County floodplain administrator, NRCS, SHPO, USFWS, and ODNR was completed prior to publication of the EA. 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, Portsmouth Daily Times, advising the public of this document's availability for review and comment. A copy of the EA will be also placed in the Vern Riffe Branch 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 Village of New Boston is proposing to improve the wastewater system and mitigate CSO issues within the Village. Wastewater improvements would reduce inflow and infiltration problems and continue the Village's effort to separate the CSS and reduce CSO discharges. By providing a safe and reliable wastewater collection system, 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 providing a reliable system. No significant, adverse impacts have been identified as a result of implementation of the proposed improvement project. The NAA was considered unacceptable due to health and safety hazards for the community in the proposed project area.

The majority of 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.

Strand Associates, Inc.
325 West Main Street, Suite 710
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
Planning Branch
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701

8.0 REFERENCES

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https://www.bestplaces.net/climate/city/ohio/new_boston

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

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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:

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U.S. Geological Survey

2021 StreamStats: Streamflow Statistics and Spatial Analysis Tools for Water- Resources Application. StreamStats Application Website:

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