DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

City of Nelsonville Collection System Improvements Project
Athens County, Ohio

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Environmental Assessment (EA) dated 15 September 2019, for the City of Nelsonville Collection System Improvements Project addresses the existing collection system which has reached the end of its useful life and is experiencing deterioration in Athens County, Ohio. The project would also extend sanitary sewer service to an area near the City of Nelsonville which is currently served by private on-site septic systems that are in failing condition and posing a health risk to residents and the environment. The need for replacing and extending the wastewater collection system in the proposed area is to provide residents with a reliable safe wastewater system.

The Final EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would provide residents with a reliable safe wastewater system in the study area. Section 2.0 of the EA discusses the proposed action and alternatives and the proposed action alternative includes:

- Construction of approximately 3,755 linear feet of 8-inch sanitary sewer; 1,520 linear feet of 4-inch force main; 800 linear feet of 6-inch force mainline; 410 linear feet of 1.25-inch pipeline (HDPE DR 9); 15 standard manholes; 11 type-C manhole in the area of Carbon Hill Buchtel Road and Burr Oak Boulevard; replacement of the existing Back Street pump station; construction of a new master pump station adjacent to the existing WWTP site; and 2,138 linear feet of 21-inch trunk sewer replacement along East Canal Street and Chestnut Street to the intersection of Third Street. Construction of the proposed gravity sewers and force mainline would occur within the road rights-of-way, which is in previously disturbed ground. Replacement of the trunk line would occur within the surface of East Canal Street and Chestnut Street. The original brick surface of Chestnut Street would be repaired utilizing existing bricks in order to protect the historical integrity of the area. Replacement of the existing Back Street pump station and construction of the proposed master pump station would occur on previously disturbed ground in an area of approximately 20 feet x 20 feet. The proposed Carbon Hill Buchtel Road pump station would occur on a 20x20 foot area which is located near a residential area and is currently grass covered. Two directional bore crossings of Monday Creek would occur during construction of the force mainline. Following construction, all areas would be returned to preexisting conditions through soil grading and seed planting.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS:

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. The evaluation of effects was focused on key resources affected by the proposed alternatives. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Action Alternative are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	☒	☐	☐
Air quality	☒	☐	☐
Noise levels	☒	☐	☐
Socio-economics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental justice	☒	☐	☐
Aquatic resources/wetlands	☒	☐	☐
Invasive species	☒	☐	☐
Fish and wildlife habitat	☒	☐	☐
Threatened/Endangered species	☒	☐	☐
Historic properties	☒	☐	☐
Other cultural resources	☒	☐	☐
Floodplains	☒	☐	☐
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	☒	☐	☐
Land use	☒	☐	☐
Water quality	☒	☐	☐

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the proposed action alternative. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts. For additional details of the proposed action alternative, see Section 3.0 of the EA.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the proposed action alternative may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: Indiana bat and Northern Long-eared bat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concurred with the Corps' determination on **11 October 2019**

A 30-day public, state, and agency review of the Draft EA and FONSI was completed on 30 July 2019. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final EA and FONSI.

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

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Jason A. Evers
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander