

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Section 594

Village of Rutland Wastewater System Improvement Project Meigs County, Ohio

1. Members of my staff have conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA), in the overall public interest, which considers potential impacts on the human environment from the proposed Village of Rutland (Village) Wastewater System Improvement Project, located in Meigs County, Ohio. The Preferred Action Alternative would entail converting the existing grinder pump collection system to a Septic Tank Effluent Pumping (STEP) collection system by removing individual grinder pump units and replacing them with a new septic tanks and effluent pumps. The Village will continue to use the existing low pressure sewer system for conveyance of wastewater to the treatment plant. The project also includes various improvements and equipment replacements at the plant in order to improve treatment quality and efficiency. Additionally, approximately 130 linear feet of streambank adjacent to the treatment plant, affected by flood flow erosion, is in immediate need of protection and stabilization. This reach of streambank would be armored with stone protection.
2. The possible consequences of the proposed action have been studied for environmental, cultural, and social well-being effects.
3. The Preferred Action Alternative (PAA) and the No Action Alternative (NAA) were the only alternatives carried forward for detailed evaluation. Primary ecological impacts from the PAA would be the effects of construction, which are considered to be minor and temporary. The PAA would be expected to have beneficial, long-term impacts on public health and safety which is currently impacted by inflow and infiltration problems in the project area. No threatened or endangered species or any associated critical habitat would be adversely impacted by the PAA. Under the NAA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) would not provide the funding for the project. Additionally, the NAA would result in continued health and safety risks for residents due to surface water contamination by the discharge of improperly treated sewage from the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant during wet weather events.
4. An evaluation of the PAA and NAA produced the following pertinent conclusions:
 - a. Environmental Considerations. The Huntington District has taken reasonable measures to assemble and present the known or foreseeable impacts of the PAA to the human and natural environment in the draft EA. The PAA would have no adverse effect on sites of significant archaeological or historical importance. All potential adverse impacts of the proposed action would be temporary and minor.

b. Social Well-Being Considerations. No significant economic or social well-being impacts that are both adverse and unavoidable are foreseen as a result of the PAA. Temporary and minor disturbances to noise and traffic are anticipated effects of the PAA. The community would benefit long-term from the proposed action through access to a safe, reliable wastewater system.

c. Coordination with Resource and Other Agencies. Pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1958 as amended, coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been conducted. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1970, as amended, the PAA will have no effect on listed species. Coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has also been conducted. 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, the proposed project will have no adverse effect on properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Best Management Practices would be incorporated into the plan.

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

5. I find the PAA has been planned in accordance with current authorization as described in the EA. The PAA is consistent with national policy, statutes and administrative directives. This determination is based on thorough analysis and evaluation of the PAA and NAA. In conclusion, I find that the proposed wastewater system improvement project in the Village of Rutland, 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.

William J. Miller
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer