

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Section 594

Village of Crooksville Water System Improvement Project Perry 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 Crooksville (Village) Water System Improvements Project, located in Perry County, Ohio. The Preferred Action Alternative would entail replacing approximately 60,000 linear feet of existing one-inch to eight-inch waterline with appropriately sized new polyvinyl chloride plastic water main, service lines, main valves and boxes, service connection valves and boxes, new fire hydrants, and leak detection meters to approximately 1,609 customers in the Village. In addition, the proposed action includes replacement of an existing 600,000 gallon storage tank with a new, above ground tank adjacent to the existing tank. Replacement water lines would be constructed approximately four-feet deep and the majority of the proposed alignment would follow previously disturbed road right-of-ways or adjacent mowed lawn. The project includes several directional bores, including a crossing of Moxahala Creek, unnamed tributary, railroad crossing, and identified wetland area to avoid direct impacts. After construction, road right-of-ways will be restored to preexisting conditions.
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 an ageing water system 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 increased probability of backflow of contaminant sources into the water system during depressurization events caused by water line breaks and inadequate fire-fighting pressure in the system.
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 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 from the proposed action through access to a safe reliable water 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 may affect by is not likely to adversely affect 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 water system improvements project in the Village of Crooksville, 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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Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer