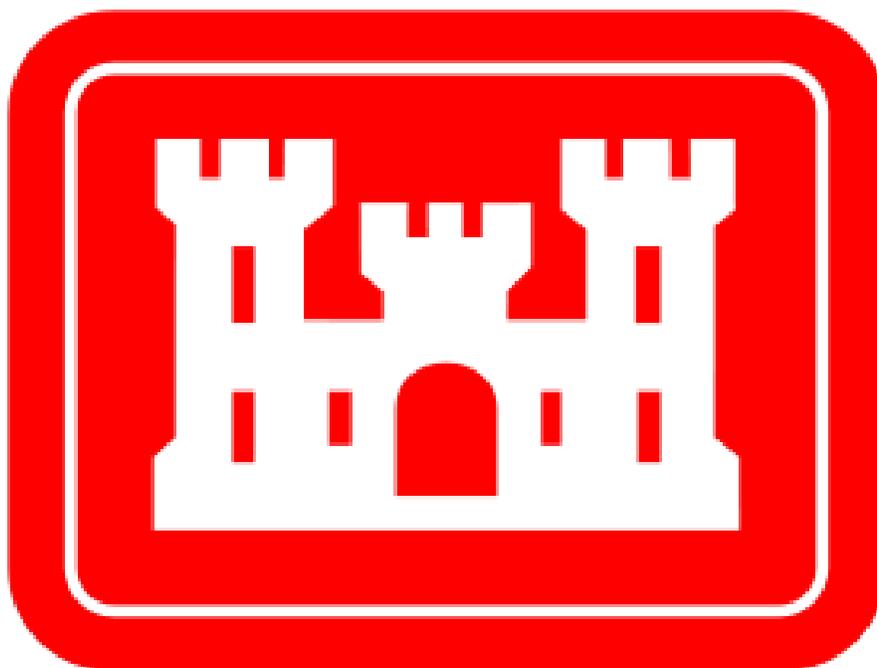


Draft Environmental Assessment
Section 594
Village of Rutland Wastewater System Improvement Project
Meigs County, Ohio



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
Huntington, West Virginia
October 2018



Environmental Assessment
Section 594 Village of Rutland Wastewater System Improvement Project
Meigs County, Ohio
Executive Summary

The Meigs County Commissioners are proposing to design and construct a wastewater collection system improvements project within the Village of Rutland, Ohio. The existing wastewater collection system was installed in 1990 and includes a low pressure collection system with individual grinder pumps at each household and business. The collection system suffers from significant inflow and infiltration problems during wet weather events. The proposed project would include improvements to the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant, replacement of all grinder stations with new septic tanks and effluent pumps, and continue to use the existing low pressure sewer system to convey wastewater to the existing plant. The need for the wastewater system improvements in the proposed area is to reduce inflow and infiltration problems during wet weather events.

The Proposed 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 new septic tanks and effluent pumps. The Village of Rutland 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 replacement 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.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the Meigs County Commissioners and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) established under the authority of Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-109), 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 Corps implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2.



SECTION 594
VILLAGE OF RUTLAND
WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
MEIGS COUNTY, OHIO
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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 Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Background

This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential environmental impacts of the wastewater collection system improvement project as proposed by the Meigs County Commissioners. 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).

1.2 Purpose, Need, and Authorization

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide replacement of the existing grinder pump collection system. The existing wastewater collection system was installed in 1990 and includes a low pressure collection system with individual grinder pumps at each household and business. The collection system suffers from significant inflow and infiltration problems during wet weather events. The proposed project would include improvements to the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), replacement of all grinder stations with new septic tanks and effluent pumps, and continue to use the existing low pressure sewer system to convey wastewater to the existing plant. The need for wastewater improvements in the proposed area is to reduce inflow and infiltration problems and assist with bringing the Village of Rutland (Village) into compliance as the Village is currently running the WWTP on an expired National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the Meigs County Commissioners and the Corps established under the authority of Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 (Public Law 106-109), 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 ALTERNATIVES DISMISSED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

2.1 Gravity Sewer System

This alternative considered replacing the existing grinder pump collection system with a conventional gravity sewer system. In a conventional gravity sewer system, wastewater flows by gravity except where a pumping station may be required. This system, which eliminates septic tanks and is devoid of moving parts, is generally the most reliable and economical means of conveying wastewater. There is potential for more environmental impacts during the construction as a result of deeper and wider trenches. This alternative was dismissed from further consideration due to greater costs and environmental impacts than the proposed action.

2.2 Rehabilitate the Existing Collection System

This alternative considered replacing all of the internal components at all stations with new equipment including pumps, rails, piping, valves, etc. The electrical system would be replaced and the entire collection system would need flushed out. Structural repairs would need to be made to several stations. This alternative was dismissed from further consideration as a result of high construction costs and the anticipated high level of maintenance and problems that would remain within the system.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Proposed Action Alternative (PAA)

The PAA 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. This alternative was chosen as a result of cost effectiveness and the lesser environmental impacts than the alternatives dismissed from further consideration.

3.2 No Action Alternative (NAA)

Under the NAA, the Corps would not provide funding for the project. Additionally, the Meigs County Commissioners would not improve the wastewater system within the Village. 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. This alternative was considered unacceptable due to health and safety hazards for the community in the proposed project area.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Location

The affected area is located within the Village of Rutland in Meigs County, Ohio. Figure 1 below shows the overall project location. The red line indicates the boundary of grinder pump replacements within the Village's boundary and the green line indicates improvements to the WWTP.



Figure 1: Project Location



3.2 Land Use

Land use in the vicinity of the PAA is primarily residential, commercial, and open space. Land use surrounding the Village is primarily agricultural, forested, and open space. Significant development is not anticipated as a result of this project. Construction of the project elements is confined to the replacement of existing grinder pump stations with new STEP system within previously disturbed areas as well as improvements to the existing WWTP and adjacent streambank. These improvements will take place within the Village's corporate boundaries, which is already committed to urban development. The proposed improvements will rehabilitate the existing system and would not require any change in land use in the Village.

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

3.3 Climate

The Leading Creek Watershed's continental climate makes it susceptible to highly variable weather throughout the year. There are no abrupt changes in topography such as significant mountain ranges to cause great differences in climate. The watershed's climate is greatly influenced by oceanic and atmospheric interactions. The watershed experiences seasonal weather patterns throughout the year, with climatic conditions typical of summer, fall, winter, and spring seasons for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States. Summers are usually characterized by warm to hot weather with periods of high humidity. Winters within the watershed are typically mild to moderate for cold temperatures and experience snowfall. Fall is typically the driest season, while spring is usually the wettest season within the watershed.

On average, the winter temperature in Meigs County is approximately 32 degrees Fahrenheit while the average summer temperature is 71 degrees Fahrenheit. The county receives 102 centimeters (40 inches) of precipitation annually. About 57 percent of the yearly rainfall occurs between April and September.

The PAA would not involve any activity that would affect the environment in regard to climate change. This region is not projected to experience severe drought conditions and is instead expected to experience more precipitation in the future as larger and more intense rainfalls become more frequent. As a result, the PAA would not likely be influenced by or influence future climate change. For the same reasons, there are also no impacts expected with respect to climate as a result of the NAA.

3.4 Terrestrial Habitat

The PAA would be constructed primarily on previously disturbed areas, including the existing WWTP; therefore, potential impacts to vegetation would be minimal and temporary. No tree



clearing is anticipated for the proposed project as the area has been previously disturbed due to prior installation of grinder pump units and remained cleared as part of the right of way requirements. Areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions upon completion of construction activities. Only short-term temporary impacts during construction are anticipated to occur. Therefore, no significant long-term impacts to terrestrial habitat are anticipated as part of the PAA.

As the selection of the NAA would entail no changes to the project area, there are no impacts to terrestrial habitat anticipated as part of the NAA.

3.5 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988 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 portions of the proposed project are located within the base floodplain or the area that has a 1-percent chance or greater of having a flood in any given year and in the regulatory floodway of Little Leading Creek (<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones>). A local floodplain development permit would be required for this project. Installation of the septic tanks is not expected to obstruct flood flows or usurp flood storage capacity as the tanks would be buried and the land would be returned to its pre-construction contours. Improvements to the WWTP would require equipment replacement and/or upgrades within the existing boundary of the plant and streambank stabilization adjacent to the plant's outfall. The WWTP is located outside of the floodplain. However, the proposed streambank stabilization area is located in the Special Flood Hazard Area with portions touching the floodway. As the failing streambank is located in a floodplain and the proposed action is an emergency streambank protection project, there is no practicable alternative to taking action in the floodplain. Therefore, the PAA meets the intent of EO 11988 and will not cause a negative impact to the regulatory floodway. There would be no new above ground structures associated with the proposed project. Therefore, no significant impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the PAA.

Under the NAA, continued bank erosion would continue and floodway storage would increase with time.

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 majority of the project is within previously disturbed areas. These improvements will take place within the Village's corporate boundaries, which is already committed to urban development. 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. Coordination with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is on-going and will be completed prior to issuance of a FONSI.



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

3.7 Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality

The Village is located within the Leading Creek Watershed, part of the Upper Ohio-Shade Watershed which flows and drains into the Ohio River near Middleport, Ohio. The major sources of impairment within the Leading Creek Watershed is pH levels, habitat alternations, pathogens, salinity, total dissolved solids, chlorides, and siltation. The Leading Creek Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report was approved by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on January 9, 2008. TMDL reports identify and evaluate water quality problems in impaired water bodies and propose solutions to bring those waters into attainment with water quality standards. TMDLs for Little Leading Creek were calculated for three water quality parameters: total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, and chlorides. Data limitations prevented the development of TMDLs for additional water quality impairments.

Surface water in the project area includes Little Leading Creek and its tributaries. Little Leading Creek is designated as warm water habitat, agricultural and industrial water supply, and primary contact recreation. The quality of this surface water has been negatively affected by the discharge of improperly treated sewage from the Village's WWTP during wet weather events. Currently, the Village is operating under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that expired on January 31, 2015.

Implementation of the PAA would not result in any new discharge of pollutants. The PAA would require work to take place on the banks of the Little Leading Creek adjacent to the WWTP. The proposed work on the stream bank consists of approximately 130 linear feet of riprap to stabilize the streambank. Construction activities associated with this activity appear to meet the conditions under Nationwide Permit #13 Streambank Stabilization. Prior to construction, coordination with the Corps' Huntington Regulatory Branch shall be completed and all necessary Water Quality Certifications shall be obtained.

Impacts to the aquatic habitat will be minimized as there would be no creek crossings and in-water work associated with this project would only occur along the streambank at the WWTP. A NPDES permit would be required due to the size of construction area. Indirect impacts associated with run-off and erosion due to installation of new septic tanks may temporarily impact water quality in the area surface waters. These impacts would be minor due to the short duration and through utilization of Best Management Practices (BMPs) throughout the project to prevent runoff from the project into adjacent surface waters. 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. Implementation of the PAA would ensure the removal of untreated sewage into the Little Leading Creek and its tributaries during storm events.

Under the NAA, aquatic impacts would continue in nearby streams and surface water runoff would continue to negatively impact water quality in the project area.



3.8 Wetlands

National Wetland Inventory Maps (NWI) were reviewed for the proposed project area and identified approximately 30 acres of wetland within the Village's corporate boundary. A site reconnaissance was conducted to determine validity of NWI maps by comparing each identified wetland to current plans and specifications for the proposed project. After reviewing each area, it was determined that there will be no impact to any of the identified wetlands as either no work was being performed in the area, wetlands are located outside of the project limit, or no excavation would take place within the wetland area. Additionally, it was noted that there are two homes (the northern-most wetland and the southern-most wetland within the roughly identified corporation limits) that appear very close to the wetland boundaries as drawn on the map. In both of these cases, the existing tanks are in lawn areas within 6 feet of the structure's foundation and not within the potential wetland areas. Figure 2 shows NWI maps with notations following the site reconnaissance. Therefore, no impacts to wetlands are anticipated as part of the PAA.

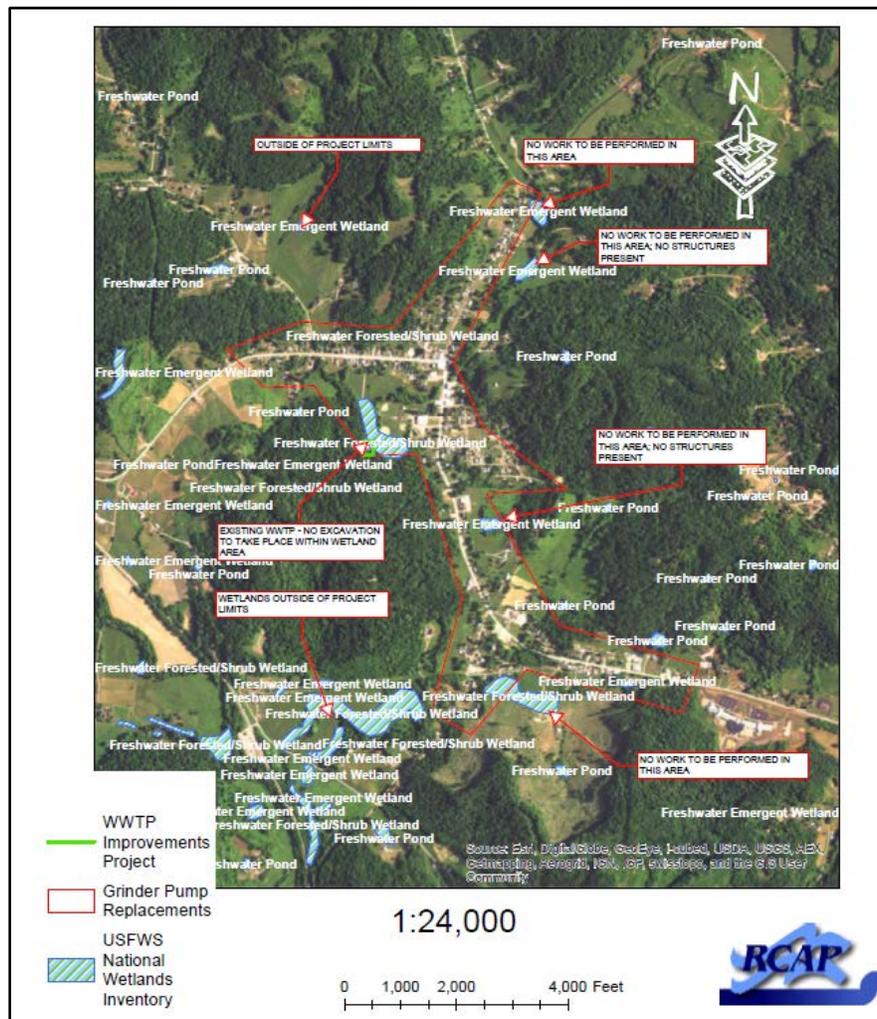


Figure 2: Wetland Location and Project Information



There are no impacts to wetlands anticipated as part of the 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 Rutland Waters System Improvement 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 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 February 16, 2018.

The NAA would not result in ground disturbing activities, and no evidence of environmental contamination is present within the property. Therefore, there are no HTRW impacts associated with the NAA.

3.11 Cultural Resources

Within a 1-mile radius of the proposed project area, there are 24 historic properties, two archeological sites, and one cemetery listed on the Ohio Historic Inventory. No new ground disturbances would occur as a result of the proposed project as the project only includes replacement of existing in-place infrastructure. Project elements would be confined to the replacement of the existing grinder pump stations with new STEP tanks and improvements at the WWTP.

A Preliminary Archeological Survey for the Village of Rutland Water System Improvements Project was conducted following coordination and recommendation by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Based on the review of survey results and associated correspondences with the SHPO, the Corps, Huntington District concurs with the Ohio SHPO's determination that this undertaking will have no adverse effect to properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)(i), the Huntington District has fulfilled its obligations under Section 106.

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 Meigs County Coroner, and SHPO must also be notified immediately if human remains are discovered.



3.12 Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the project area is within the range of the Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bat, Fanshell mussel, Pink mucket pearly mussel, Sheepnose mussel, Snuffbox mussel, and Running buffalo clover flowering plant. The proposed project would primarily occur in previously disturbed areas and no tree clearing would occur. Therefore, the Corps' Huntington District has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on the Indiana bat and Northern long-eared bat. In-water work would occur to stabilize the streambank adjacent to the WWTP. According to the April 2018 Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol, Little Leading Creek is an unlisted stream not identified in the protocol and Federally listed species are not expected. Therefore, the Corps' Huntington District has determined the proposed project would have no effect on endangered or threatened aquatic species. Furthermore, the proposed action would have no effect on endangered or threatened flowering plant species as work would occur in previously disturbed areas that do not fall within these species habitat requirements. The Huntington District coordinated with USFWS on the proposed action and effects determination. USFWS concurred with the Corps findings. No Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act is required.

3.13 Air Quality

According to the USEPA website, Meigs County is classified as "in attainment" (maintaining applicable standards) for all criteria pollutants. 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 Whitepaper, 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 3.1 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 and end loader are examples of equipment that is likely to be used during construction. Each emits noise levels around 85 dBA at 45 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 (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



2017 population estimate for Meigs County was 23,080 and does not contain significant minority populations. The 2016 census indicates Meigs County is 97.3% white and has a median household income of \$39,640 compared with the median household income of \$50,674 for the State of Ohio. Individuals residing in the county below the poverty level is 21.1% compared to 14.6% 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.

Service provided by the wastewater collection system improvements would serve residents who presently experience frequent overflow events during wet weather conditions, resulting in contaminant sources into surface water during these 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.

No impacts to minority or low income populations or children are anticipated to occur from the NAA.

3.16 Aesthetics

The project area is rural, primarily consisting of residential properties and small commercial properties. Temporary disturbance of the local aesthetics would be anticipated during construction of the wastewater 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 proposed project is served by State Route 124, a rural highway running west to east through the project area. New permanent traffic patterns would not occur as a result of this project. Construction of the PAA in and along existing road right-of-ways would involve some delays. 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 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 1502.22).

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 collection system improvement project would have minimal and insignificant negative impacts on the environment. Long-term, beneficial effects will result from the project and would include positive impacts to health and safety. 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 Leading Creek Watershed.

The Leading Creek Watershed is listed on Ohio's 2016 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters where it is rated as impaired for pH levels, habitat alternations, pathogens, salinity, total dissolved solids, chlorides, and siltation. In the past, other villages and counties within the watershed have performed upgrades to existing wastewater collection systems. These past



actions had similar temporary impacts but no significant adverse cumulative impact. Currently, the Leading Creek Watershed Group is promoting education and working to promote improvement of water quality within the watershed. The Meigs County Soil and Water Conservation District is currently working with state partners and volunteers to implement outreach, restoration projects, and monitoring efforts in the watershed. In the future, watershed programs may address water quality and conservation activities. Impairment of the Leading Creek Watershed is expected to continue but if proposed actions are implemented, a cleaner, healthier watershed would be promoted. Water quality standards and regulations are expected to remain as stringent in the future as they are 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 system 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 adverse 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 potable 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.

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

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	X		



Liability Act			
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		

* All partial statuses will be in full compliance prior to issuance of a FONSI

* Anticipated FONSI signature to occur after public review

5.0 REQUIRED COORDINATION

5.1 Agencies Contacted

Direct coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and SHPO 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, Pomeroy Daily Sentinel, advising the public of this document's availability for review and comment. A copy of the EA will also be placed in the Meigs County District Public 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 Meigs County Commissioners are proposing to improve an existing wastewater collection system. Currently, the collection system suffers from significant inflow and infiltration problems during wet weather events. By improving the wastewater collection system, inflow and infiltration events would be reduced and the proposed project would assist with bringing the Village into compliance with the Ohio EPA as the Village is currently running the WWTP on an expired NPDES permit. The proposed project is anticipated to have long-term, beneficial impacts on health and safety for residents. No significant adverse impacts have been identified as a result of implementation of the proposed improvements project.

The majority of construction would take place on previously disturbed land. Positive health and safety impacts would be realized immediately with project implementation. Effects associated with construction would be minor. BMPs would be implemented during construction to



minimize impacts to residents and the environment. Therefore, the PAA would not be expected to have significant adverse impacts on the human environment.