

Draft Environmental Assessment  
Section 594 Village of Coalton  
Sanitary Sewer Replacement  
Jackson County, Ohio



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Huntington District  
Huntington, West Virginia  
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**Environmental Assessment  
Section 594 Village of Coalton  
Sanitary Sewer Replacement  
Jackson County, Ohio  
Executive Summary**

The Village of Coalton is proposing to design and construct a sanitary sewer replacement project to improve its existing sanitary sewer collection system. The project would also include septic tank abandonment, lift station upgrades, 23 precast manholes, and storm sewer replacement as needed. The project is required in order to reduce unsuitable operation and maintenance costs, and to eliminate sewer overflows at residences and businesses. The proposed infrastructure would address health, safety, and environmental impacts associated with the existing collection system.

The Proposed Action Alternative would consist of construction of 5,600 linear feet of 8-inch sanitary sewer replacement; 4,800 linear feet of 6-inch sanitary sewer service; 67 septic tank abandonments; 1 lift station upgrade; 23 precast manholes; pavement restoration; storm sewer replacement as necessary; and clearing, grubbing, seeding, and mulching. Sanitary sewer replacement would occur immediately parallel to the existing lines, and all construction areas have been previously disturbed.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the Village of Coalton 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 106-53), 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 COALTON  
SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT  
JACKSON 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 (RCAP) in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).*

## **1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

The Village of Coalton (Village) is located in Jackson County, Ohio. The Village currently collects and treats sewage via a septic tank effluent gravity system (STEP) in which each individual on-site septic system is connected to the public collection main lines. The Village is required to maintain the collection lines in addition to the individual septic systems which have required an increased amount of maintenance over the past several years. Septic system deficiencies have also created clogs within the collection system, and the cost and effort to maintain the system has proven to be burdensome to the Village.

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 replace the Village's existing STEP. The proposed project would reduce unsuitable operation and maintenance costs and eliminate sanitary sewer overflows. These conditions affect both the operations of the wastewater system which has placed a financial burden on residents and businesses due to the increased costs, and pose health risks to residents from sanitary sewer overflows to homes and businesses.

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 construction of approximately 5,600 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch sanitary sewer replacement; 4,800 LF of 6-inch sanitary sewer service; 67 septic tank abandonments; 1 lift station upgrade; 23 precast manholes; pavement restoration; storm sewer replacement as needed; and clearing, grubbing, seeding, and mulching. The proposed sanitary sewer and manholes would be constructed immediately adjacent to the existing structures. The lift station is located near Shook Street, and construction activities would be limited to previously disturbed areas.

### **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, the Village would continue to operate a sanitary sewer system that experiences overflows into homes and businesses as well as produce unsuitable operating and maintenance costs. 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 significant, resulting in reduced conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.
- **Beneficial** – A measurable and positive effect to a resource. May be minor to significant, 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 Coalton in Jackson County, Ohio. The proposed project would be constructed immediately adjacent to the existing sanitary sewer and in previously disturbed areas. Figure 1 below shows the overall project location. See Appendix A for project location maps.

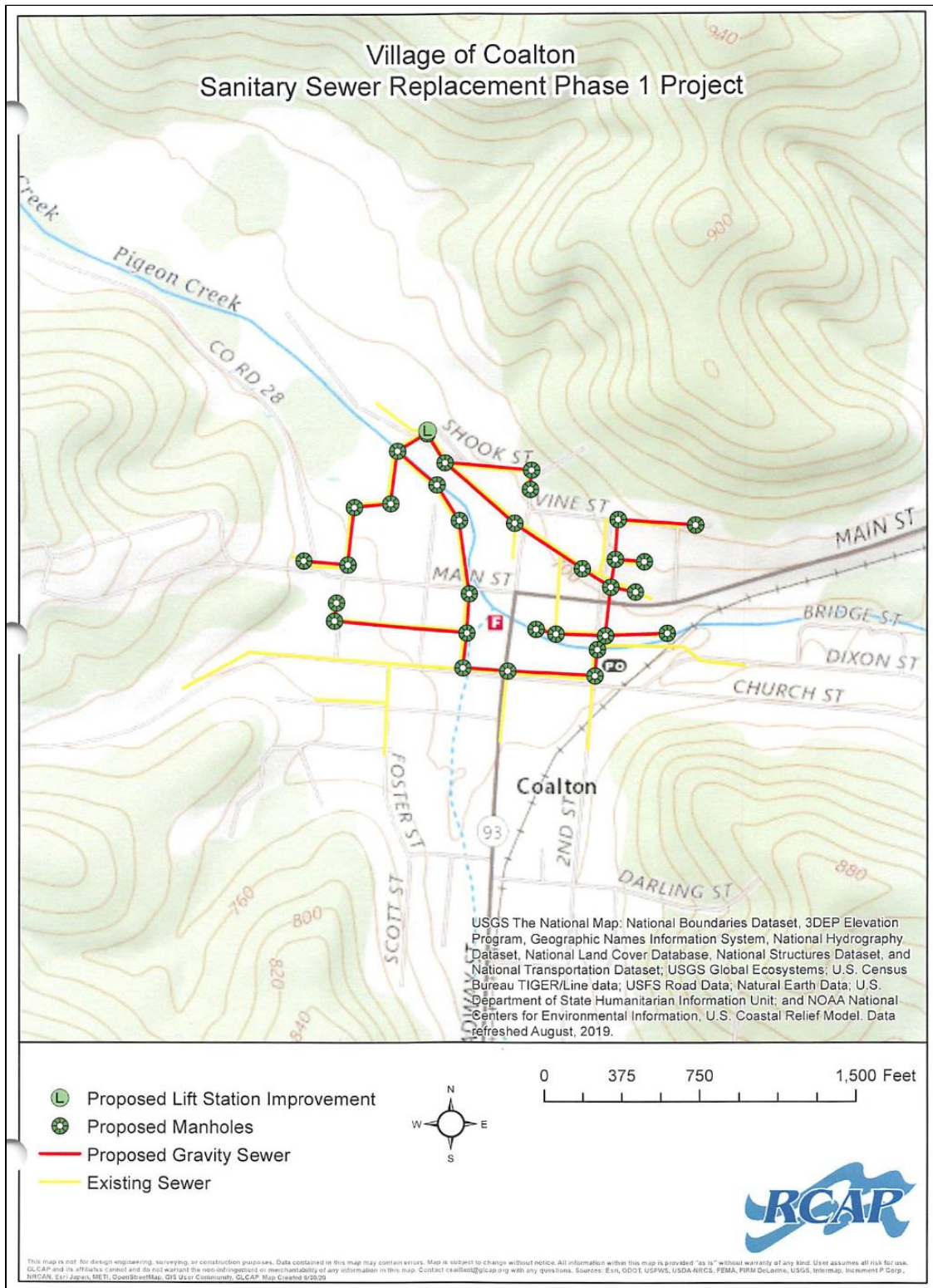


Figure 1: Overall Project Location





### **3.2 Land Use**

Land use in the vicinity of the PAA is primarily residential and commercial within a rural setting, and land use surrounding the Village is primarily rural. The sanitary sewer and manholes would be constructed in road right-of-ways immediately adjacent to the existing sanitary sewer. The proposed improvements to the lift station would be limited to the existing site which is a previously disturbed area.

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

### **3.3 Climate**

Coalton 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. Summer months are May to September with periods of hot and humid conditions in the late summer months. The hottest month is typically July with an average temperature of 74 degrees Fahrenheit. The coldest season lasts for three months from December to March with an average seasonal snowfall of 22 inches. The coldest month is January with an average temperature of 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Average rainfall is 42 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 PAA or NAA 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. Removal of grass and vegetation may occur within areas where open trenching and directional boring for the sewer lines are implemented. Proposed work at the lift station would be confined to its existing footprint. It is anticipated that no tree removal would be needed; however, if during construction removal of trees is required, removal would be limited to the designated clearing window for Ohio (October 1 to March 31). 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, as the contractor would be required to reseed any disturbed areas once construction is complete. 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 overflow events that pollute the natural environment and pose health risks to wildlife and their habitats.



### 3.5 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, 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 for the portions of the proposed project that would be located within the floodplain of Pigeon Creek (<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones>). The proposed project is located in the regulatory floodway and Zone X, which is an area of minimal flood hazard.

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. The proposed work at the lift station would be confined to their existing footprint and is not anticipated to affect the floodplain. Construction activities within the floodplain would require submission of a floodplain permit prior to construction to the Jackson County Planning Commission. PAA meets the intent of EO 11988 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 is along road right-of-ways or in 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. Coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was conducted on 25 June 2020. The NRCS determined that "no impacts to prime or unique farmland would occur as the property is committed to urban development".

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

### 3.7 Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality

The project is within the Pigeon Creek Watershed (HUC 05060002 07 01). The watershed encompasses 46.23 square miles and is located within the Salt Creek Watershed. In 2020, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) listed the Pigeon Creek Watershed in the Section 303(d) list of impaired waters for aquatic life and recreation uses. Identified sources of impairment for the watershed include *Escherichia Coli* (*E. coli*). There are no Sole Source Aquifers in the project area.

Implementation of the PAA would not result in any new discharge of pollutants. On 29 October 2020, the Corps Regulatory Division determined that the PAA will neither result in a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States nor involve work in, on, or under a



navigable water of the United States. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act is not required and a section 404(b)(1) analysis, Section 404 permit (individual or Nationwide) and associated Section 401 permit under the Clean Water Act is not required.

An Aquatic Resource Delineation was conducted on 10 September 2020 and 2 perennial streams totaling approximately 556 LF in length were delineated within the project area. Two stream crossings along Pigeon Creek and an Unnamed Tributary to Pigeon Creek are associated with the project. Impacts to aquatic habitat would be temporary at stream crossings through use of directional drill methods. Currently, the Village is operating under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. 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. 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 the number of overflow events that pollute the natural environment and pose health risks to aquatic species and their habitats.

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

### **3.8 Wetlands**

National Wetland Inventory Maps (NWI) were reviewed for the proposed project area. NWI mapping did not identify any wetlands within the project area. A site reconnaissance was conducted on 10 September 2020 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 Coalton Sanitary Sewer Replacement 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 as acceptable and had the following comments. Site 2, the Former General Store, is located on 61 and 67 Main Street and is listed for suspected release of gasoline from a 550-gallon underground storage tank (UST). Release is suspected due to the age of the tank and uncertainty regarding date of last use. There is an enforcement action ongoing since 2005 for this site; however, no sampling or remedial action has been initiated since the identification of the responsible party has been disputed. The UST is located approximately 100 feet north of the proposed sewer line corridor along Pigeon Creek and approximately 125 feet south of the corridor along the old railroad bed. Since no observable evidence exists to indicate that a release has occurred, the site is not considered a REC. However, caution should be exercised when excavating in these areas. In the event signs of petroleum contamination are observed during construction activities, work should be halted to determine whether additional investigation is necessary. Site 4, 77 Main Street, is listed for a spill of chlorine solution and muriatic (hydrochloric) acid in 2009. The volume of the spill and closure method are not listed; therefore, no information exists to indicate this site would pose a threat to the project. Although the address listed corresponded to a former residential structure adjacent to the fire department, the listing identifies “Culligan Water Softener” as the responsible party. Therefore, it is more likely that the spill occurred at the Culligan facility just south of the proposed sewer corridor along the old railroad bed, which is also the site of spilled unknown water filter substrate. This unknown material, if hazardous, would be considered a *de minimus* condition and not a REC. 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 19 December 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 7 July 2020, the SHPO responded in a letter that the proposed undertaking “will not affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places”. In addition, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma determined that they had no objection to the proposed action. 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 Jackson 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, there are three threatened and endangered species listed within the vicinity of the project (Consultation Code: TAILS# 03E15000-2020-TA-1698). They are the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*).

The proposed project would occur in previously disturbed land and it is anticipated that no tree clearing would be required. However, if limited tree clearing would need to occur, tree removal would only take place between October 1st and March 15<sup>th</sup> to minimize potential impacts to federally listed bat species. Therefore, the Corps' Huntington District has determined that the project would have no effect to the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and running buffalo clover.

On 8 July 2020, the USFWS responded in an email that “due to the project type, size, location, and proposed implementation of seasonal tree cutting to avoid impacts to the federally listed endangered Indiana bat and threatened northern long-eared bat, we do not anticipate adverse effects to any federally endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate species” (see Appendix B for coordination email) . In addition, they determined that “there are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area”. 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 website, Jackson County is classified as “in attainment” 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 *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.**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2014-2018 population estimate for the Village of Coalton was 436 and does not contain significant minority populations. The percentage of minority population in Coalton is 3.1% compared to 18.3% statewide. The census indicates Coalton has a median household income of \$36,369, compared with the median household income of \$54,533 for the State of Ohio. Individuals residing in the Village below the poverty level is 27.8%, compared to the 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 21.7% compared to 22.1% statewide.

Service provided by the wastewater system improvements would serve residents who presently experience high maintenance costs and sewer overflow events, 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.

The NAA could result in overflow events during wet weather conditions, which could pose a safety and long-term health risk, especially 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 sanitary sewer collection system would follow road right-of ways. 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. 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. 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 sanitary sewer collection system to the residents of the project area that are currently utilizing an inefficient collection system. The existing system experiences sewer overflows at existing homes and businesses. Providing improvements to the sanitary sewer collection system is necessary to reduce the sewer overflows and high maintenance costs. 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 sewer overflows, 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 sanitary sewer replacement 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 Pigeon Creek Watershed, which is part of the Salt Creek Watershed.

The Salt Creek Watershed is listed as impaired with cause of impairment as bacteria. Probable sources of bacteria include agricultural practices such as improper manure management, unrestricted cattle access to streams, and failing home sewage treatment systems. 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 Salt Creek 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 3.0 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 sewer overflow discharges into the Pigeon Creek Watershed. The reduction of sewer overflows could contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of long-term aquatic productivity within the Pigeon Creek 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 sewer overflows 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.

<b>Table 2 - Environmental Compliance Status</b>			
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, Jackson County floodplain administrator, NRCS, SHPO, USFWS, ODNR, and tribal agencies 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 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, The Courier, advising the public of this document's availability for review and comment. A copy of the EA will also be placed in the Jackson City 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 Coalton is proposing to replace their sanitary sewer collection system. Wastewater system improvements would reduce sewer overflows and high maintenance costs. By providing a safe and reliable sanitary sewer 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.

Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)  
1817 St. Rt. 83, Unit 43  
Millersburg, OH 44654

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District  
Planning Branch  
502 Eighth Street



Huntington, WV 25701

## **9.0 REFERENCES**

Climate for Coalton, OH

<https://www.bestplaces.net/weather/city/ohio/coalton>

Council for Environmental Quality

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

Council for Environmental Quality

1997 Considering cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Federal Emergency Management Agency 2019 Floodplain Maps Website:

<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>

Schomer, Paul

2001 A White Paper: Assessment of Noise Annoyance. Schomer and Associates

U.S. Census Bureau

2019 American FactFinder Website:

<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:

<https://www.fws.gov/ipac>

U.S. Geological Survey

2019 StreamStats: Streamflow Statistics and Spatial Analysis Tools for Water- Resources Application. StreamStats Application Website:

<https://streamstats.usgs.gov/ss/>