

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Harrison County Commissioners Village of Freeport Sanitary Sewer System Project Harrison County, Ohio

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Environmental Assessment (EA) dated **DATE**, for the Village of Freeport Sanitary Sewer System Project addresses the existing individual septic systems and limited capacity package plants that have led to environmental and health concerns. The proposed wastewater treatment plant and sanitary sewer collection system would eliminate the discharge of raw sewage associated with unpermitted septic system connections, assist with bringing the Village of Freeport into compliance with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (Ohio EPA) water quality effluent requirements, and increase system capacity to allow for continued growth.

The Final EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated the proposed action alternative that would provide residents with a reliable and safe wastewater collection system in the study area. Section 4.0 of the EA discusses all alternatives. The proposed action alternative includes:

- the construction of a 75,000 gallon per day Aero-Mod extended aeration treatment plant and a sanitary sewer collection system. The sanitary sewer collection system would consist of a conventional gravity sewer containing approximately 4,160 linear feet of ¾-inch pipe for low-pressure force main, 5,250 linear feet of 2-inch PVC low-pressure sewer, 850 linear feet of 4-inch PVC force main, 17,200 linear feet of 8-inch PVC sanitary sewer, 57 standard sanitary manholes, 8,160 linear feet of 6-inch service connection laterals, 26 1-HP simplex grinder pumps; 13 residential electrical panel upgrades, one lift station, 7,700 square yards pavement repair, and site restoration.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS:

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

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action

| Resource | Insignificant effects | Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation* | Resource unaffected by action |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Aesthetics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Air quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Noise levels | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Socio-economics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Aquatic resources/wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Invasive species | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Fish and wildlife habitat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Threatened/Endangered species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic properties | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other cultural resources | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Floodplains | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Land use | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Prime and Unique Farmland | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Water quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the proposed action alternative. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts. For additional details of the proposed action alternative, see Section 4.0 of the EA.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the proposed action alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concurred with the Corps' determination on 22 March 2021.

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that historic properties would not be affected by the recommended plan. The Ohio State Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the determination on **DATE**.

A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained by the local Sponsor from the Ohio EPA prior to construction. The recommended plan appears to meet the requirements of the water quality certification, pending confirmation based on information to be developed during the pre-construction engineering and design phase. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

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

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

Date

Jason A. Evers
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander