

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Section 594

Village of Rome Wastewater Collection and Treatment System Improvement Project Adams 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 Rome (Village) Wastewater Collection and Treatment System Improvements Project, located in Adams County, Ohio. The Preferred Action Alternative would entail installation of a Septic Tank Effluent Pump collection system comprised of approximately 8,500 linear feet of 2-inch effluent line, 47 septic tanks with electric pumps, and a wastewater treatment plant. Treatment will be accomplished using an Orenco® Packed Bed Media Filter also known as a Recirculating Media Filter. The treatment plant will be located on the northeast side of the Village, adjacent to State Route 52. Installation of the collection system will occur primarily within existing road rights-of-way and will be mostly directionally drilled. The new system will benefit everyone living in the community. 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 deteriorating individual wastewater systems in the project area. No threatened or endangered species or any associated critical habitat would be significantly 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 and natural environmental impacts due to increased water quality contamination and issues within the Village's surrounding area.

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 effective wastewater treatment.

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 wastewater system improvement project in the Village of Rome, 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.

Philip M. Secrist, III
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer