

Draft Environmental Assessment
Section 531 Elkhorn City
Stillhouse Water Storage Tank Project
Pike County, Kentucky



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
Huntington, West Virginia
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Environmental Assessment
Section 531 Elkhorn City
Stillhouse Water Storage Tank Project
Pike County, Kentucky
Executive Summary

Elkhorn City located in Pike County, Kentucky is proposing to design and construct a water storage tank to replace the existing Stillhouse water storage tank with a 200,000-gallon glass lined standpipe water storage tank that is less prone to rust and corrosion. The existing water storage tank also yields low water pressure and is not equipped with a proper mixing system to eliminate dead water storage and other contaminants which has proven to be burdensome to the City over the past several years.

The Proposed Action Alternative would consist of replacing the existing Stillhouse water storage tank, an aging 200,000-gallon steel standpipe water storage tank, with a new 200,000-gallon glass lined standpipe water storage tank that is less prone to rust and corrosion. The new water storage tank would be taller than the existing tank to address pressure issues in the distribution system. The new water storage tank would also be equipped with a mixing system to eliminate dead water storage and other contaminants. There are proposed improvements to the access road which includes grading uneven areas and placing gravel in locations needed for equipment to improve access to the tank site. The improvements to the access road would not require grass or vegetation to be removed. The new water storage tank would be built within the footprint of the previous water storage tank. Upon completion, the previous water tank would be demolished. The demolition of the previous water storage tank would not be funded by the Corps.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between Elkhorn City, Kentucky and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, established under the authority of the Section 531 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 Kentucky. This law provides design and construction assistance for water related environmental infrastructure projects to Non-Federal interests in Kentucky. Funding, as established under Section 531, 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 531 ELKHORN CITY
STILLHOUSE WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT
PIKE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
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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 Pike County Fiscal Court in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Background

Elkhorn City (City) is proposing to design and construct a new water storage tank. There are several issues that the City is facing with their current water storage tank. The tank itself has fallen into a state of disrepair which has potentially led to rust or corrosive contaminants in the water system. In addition, the low height of the tank causes water pressure issues for residents in higher elevation areas. Lastly, outdated plumbing in the current water tank system could lead to the promotion of stale water in the system. These issues have caused health and safety concerns or inconveniences to residents in the area.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential environmental impacts of the Stillhouse Water Storage Tank Project as proposed by the City. 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 an aging 200,000-gallon steel standpipe water storage tank with a new 200,000-gallon glass lined standpipe water storage tank that is less prone to rust and corrosion. The new tank would be taller than the existing tank to address pressure issues in the distribution system. The new tank would also be equipped with a mixing system to eliminate dead water storage and other contaminants

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between Elkhorn City, Kentucky and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) established under the authority of the Section 531 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 Kentucky. This law provides design and construction assistance for water related environmental infrastructure projects to Non-Federal interests in Kentucky, 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 the Corps implementing regulations, ER 200-2-2.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action Alternative (PAA)

The PAA would involve replacing the existing Stillhouse water storage tank, an aging 200,000-gallon steel standpipe water storage tank, with a new 200,000-gallon glass lined standpipe water storage tank that is less prone to rust and corrosion. The new water storage tank would be taller than the existing tank to address pressure issues in the distribution system. The new water storage tank would also be equipped with a mixing system to eliminate dead water storage and other contaminants. Construction activities would occur within the footprint of the existing water storage tank, and the new water storage tank would be located adjacent to the existing water storage tank. Furthermore, improvements to the access road leading to the project site would include grading uneven areas and placing gravel in locations to improve access to the site. When the construction is completed, the existing water storage tank would be demolished and disposed of at the Pike County Landfill. However, the demolition contract would be under a separate contract and would not be funded by the Corps.

2.2 No Action Alternative (NAA)

Under the NAA, the Corps would not provide funding for the project and the City would not replace their deteriorating and aging water storage tank. Elimination of dead water storage and other contaminants, and low water pressure concerns would not be addressed. As a result, residents and businesses within the area would continue to rely on the existing water storage tank. 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, or significant, and may be 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 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 measurable 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 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 major, resulting in reduced conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.
- Beneficial – A measurable and positive effect to a resource. May be minor to major, 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.

3.1 Project Location

The project is located in Elkhorn City, Pike County, Kentucky. Pike County is in southeastern Kentucky and is part of the Appalachian Region, and Elkhorn City is located adjacent to the



Kentucky-Virginia border along the banks of the Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River. The City is accessible from Kentucky Route 80 (KY 80), and the access road to the existing water storage tank site is located off of Stillhouse Avenue which eventually connects to KY 80. Construction activities would occur within the existing water storage tank's footprint which is previously disturbed land. Figure 1 below shows the project location. See Appendix A for project location maps.

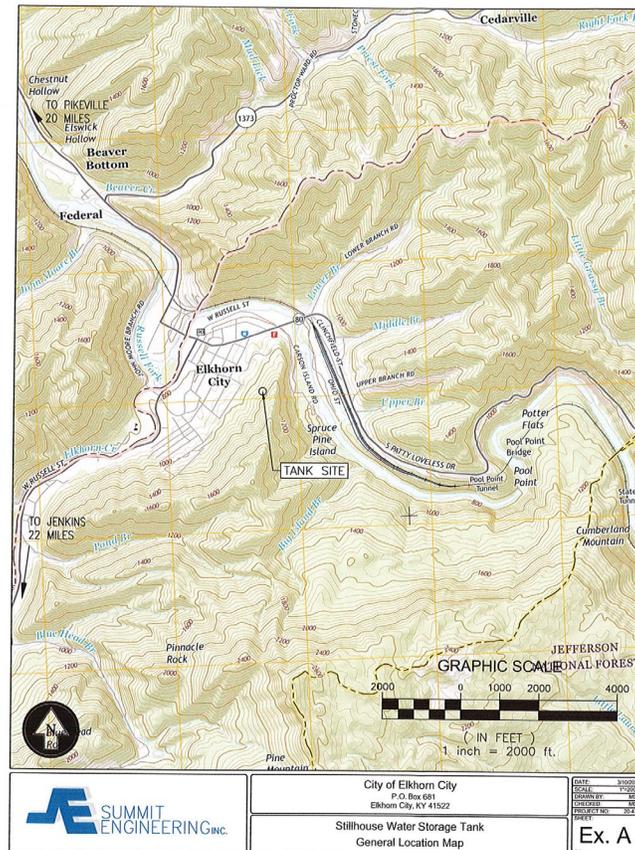


Figure 1: Project Location

3.2 Land Use

Land use in the vicinity of the PAA is primarily consists of residential homes, commercial properties, open space, and forested areas. The new water storage tank would be constructed adjacent to the existing tank on previously disturbed land. The access road that leads to the project would be improved by grading uneven areas and by placing gravel in locations to improve access to the site. No grass or vegetation would be removed from the existing access road. Therefore, no long-term land use changes would result from the PAA.

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



3.3 Climate

The climate in the Big Sandy River Basin is typical of the North Temperate Zone. Topographic characteristics considerably modify the climate as marked variations in temperature and precipitation occur between mountain and plateau areas. Frequent and rapid changes in weather occur due to the passage of fronts associated with general low-pressure areas. Pike County, Kentucky 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. The hottest month is July with an average high temperature of 84 degrees Fahrenheit with the summer season lasting from May to September. The coldest month is January with an average low temperature of 23 degrees Fahrenheit with the winter season lasting from December to March. Average annual precipitation is 45.1 inches and average snowfall is 16 inches for Pike County, Kentucky. The heaviest precipitation of late fall and the winter months occurs during passage of general storms that move from the southwest to northeastward over the Ohio River Valley. Occasionally, tropical hurricanes moving northward parallel to the Atlantic coast will cross the Appalachian range and deposit enough rain to cause heavy flooding.

Maintaining and providing adequate wastewater infrastructure within the constraints imposed by primary project purposes helps reduce stormwater runoff and soil erosion, mitigates air pollution, and moderates temperatures. The USACE, also Corps, Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan implements Executive Order (E.O.) 13693, stating:

“As a prominent Federal entity, a key participant in the use and management of many of the Nation’s water resources, a critical team member in the design, construction, and management of military and civil infrastructure, and responsible members of the Nation’s citizenry, the USACE strives to protect, sustain, and improve the natural and manmade environment of our Nation and is committed to sustainability and compliance with applicable environmental and energy statutes, regulations and Executive Orders.”

Further, the USACE has prepared an Adaptation Plan in response to previously existing related EOs and Climate Action Plan. The Adaptation Plan includes the following USACE policy statement:

“It is the policy of USACE to integrate climate change preparedness and resilience planning and actions in all activities for the purpose of enhancing the resilience of our built and natural water-resource infrastructure and the effectiveness of our military support mission, and to reduce the potential vulnerabilities of that infrastructure and those missions to the effects of climate change and variability.”

The Big Sandy River Basin is part of the larger Ohio River Basin (ORB). Although the modeled climatic predictions vary across the ORB and are somewhat uncertain (especially in the latter portion of the 21st century), much of the basin appears likely to experience significantly higher high-flow events and in some cases, lowered low-flow events, interspersed with periods of drought. In the face of changing land use and energy development, and where these projected air



temperature and flow changes deviate more than 25% from the current levels, it is likely that fish and mussel populations, wetland complexes, reservoir fisheries, trans-boundary organisms such as migratory fish and water body-dependent birds, and human use and safety will also be noticeably impacted.

IWR climate modeling results indicate that climatic conditions in the ORB will remain largely within the mean ranges of precipitation and temperatures, with the exception of a gradual warming that has been experienced between 1952 and 2001. Summer highs and winter lows between 2011 and 2040 are expected to remain generally within what has been observed over that historic period, but extreme fluctuations (record temperatures, rainfall, or drought) are expected to become more likely than before. After 2040, temperatures may rise at one degree per decade through 2099. Likewise, there may be significant changes in precipitation with associated increases or decreases in river flow on an annual mean basis and a seasonal maximum and minimum basis. During 2070-2099, the annual percent change in maximum streamflow increases substantially across PA, WV, OH, IN, and IL. It is anticipated there would be some increases between 2040 and 2070 in precipitation and river flow in the base period during the spring season; however, the fall season will bring significant rainfall and increased river flows by as much as 35% to 50% more during the base period.

Only short duration, minor discharges of carbon-based pollutants would occur during construction activities that could contribute to greenhouse gases. The NAA or PAA would not involve any activity that could significantly affect the environment in regard to climate change and the project 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 primarily within a previously disturbed area as it is currently occupied by the existing water storage tank. The proposed tank is 25 feet in diameter and would be placed on a concrete pad. The concrete pad would be one (1) foot larger than the diameter of the tank. The access road that leads to the project would be improved by grading uneven areas and by placing gravel in locations to improve access to the site. No grass or vegetation would be removed from the existing access road.

No tree clearing is anticipated for the project as the area has been previously disturbed from construction of the existing water storage tank and waterline tie-in. In addition, this area has remained cleared as part of the right-of-way requirements. Potential impacts to vegetation would be minimal and temporary, and areas disturbed during construction would be returned to pre-existing conditions where applicable. Only short-term temporary impacts during construction are anticipated to occur as a result of the PAA. Therefore, no significant long-term impact to terrestrial habitat is anticipated as part of the PAA.



As 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

E.O. 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 the project area is not located within the regulatory floodway or other floodplain areas. In addition, the base elevation of the new water storage tank is 1,065 feet. No further coordination with the floodplain manager for Pike County, Kentucky is required. The PAA meets the intent of E.O. 11988 and no significant impacts to the regulatory floodway or other floodplain areas are anticipated to occur from the PAA.

As no construction related activities would be implemented, no impacts would result 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 proposed construction activities would occur within previously disturbed areas. Furthermore, the project would take place within the City's service boundaries. Consultation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on 17 October 2021 confirmed no impacts to prime or unique farmland would occur as the project site would not entail conversion of agricultural lands. Therefore, the Corps Huntington District has determined that the FPPA would not apply to this proposed project, and no impacts on prime or unique, statewide, or locally important farmland are expected to occur.

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

3.7 Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality

The project is located next to the Russell Fork River section 12.65 to 16.5. According to Kentucky's Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) 305(b) 2020 List, the Russell Fork River is located within the Beaver Creek-Russell Fork watershed (HUC 050702020703). This section of the Russell Fork River runs 3.85 miles through Pike County to the Kentucky-Virginia state line. There are no Sole Source Aquifers in the project area. The segment of the Russell Fork River located within Pike County is not listed in Kentucky's EEC 303(d) 2020 List; however, portions of the Russell Fork River located within Buchanan County Virginia are listed as impaired due to *Escherichia coli*, and thermal constraints.

Implementation of the PAA would not result in new discharge of pollutants and is expected to have a positive effect on water quality within the area by reducing the risk of contamination in the local water supply. No construction activities along the Russell Fork would take place,



therefore there would be no stream crossings or in-water work. No further coordination with the Corps' Regulatory Branch is required. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 404 permit (general or individual), and associated Section 401 permit under the Clean Water Act would not be required prior to construction. If conditions change and it is determined that there are additional impacts to waters, coordination with the Corps' Regulatory Branch will be required and all applicable permits shall be obtained by the local Sponsor.

A NPDES permit would not be required for this project. However, sedimentation and erosion control plans would be required for any construction related activities and would be submitted by the local Sponsor to Kentucky's EEC. Construction related impacts would be short-term and minor and mitigated through the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as the installation of silt fences and straw bales 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. The PAA is anticipated to have beneficial effects to water quality by improving the local water supply.

Under the NAA, no aquatic impacts would occur and water quality in the project area would remain unchanged. However, without the proposed project, it is likely that water quality would continue to be negatively impacted by aging and deteriorating infrastructure.

3.8 Wetlands

National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Maps were reviewed for the proposed project area and there were no wetlands located within the project area. Also, a site visit was performed on 12 October 2021 to confirm that wetlands are not present at the project site. Therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands under the PAA.

No impacts to wetlands are 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 Limited Phase 1 HTRW Environmental Site Assessment was conducted by the Pike County Fiscal Court on 12 October 2021 for the project to identify environmental conditions and to identify the potential presence of HTRW contamination located in the project's construction work limits. During their assessment, no recognized environmental conditions (RECs), controlled recognized environmental conditions (CRECs), historical recognized environmental conditions (HRECs), or de minimis conditions were found.



After review of the Limited Phase I HTRW investigation, Corps' HTRW staff determined that no further investigation or action is required. Therefore, no impacts to HTRW are anticipated with the PAA. A clearance memorandum was signed by Corps' HTRW staff on 19 January 2022 and is included in Appendix B.

The NAA would not result in ground disturbing activities. Therefore, no direct construction related HTRW impacts would be 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 Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was consulted regarding the proposed project. On 13 August 2021, the SHPO advised that the proposed Undertaking would not affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Corps' Huntington District Archeologist has reviewed the Undertaking and concurs with the SHPO's determinations. As the lead Federal agency, the Corps Huntington District submitted a letter to the SHPO for their review. On 28 January 2022, the SHPO concurred with the Corps Huntington District's determination. No further coordination is required unless the project scope changes.

If unanticipated archaeological deposits or human remains are discovered, all work near the location of the discovery shall cease, and the Project Manager and Huntington District Archaeologist shall be contacted immediately. The Kentucky State Police, Elkhorn City Police Department, Pike County Coroner, Native American Tribes listed for Pike County, and SHPO must also be notified immediately if human remains are discovered.

The NAA would result in no construction activities therefore no 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) system, the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), and Big Sandy crayfish (*Cambarus callainus*) are listed within the project area.

The Pike County Courthouse coordinated with the USFWS Kentucky Field Office regarding the proposed project. By letter dated 19 August 2021, the USFWS advised that significant impacts to Federally listed species are not likely to result from this project as proposed.

The proposed project would occur within a previously disturbed area, and would not require tree clearing, in-water work or stream crossings. Therefore, the Corps' Huntington District has determined that the project would have no effect to the Gray bat, Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bat, or the Big Sandy crayfish. 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 any tree clearing, in-water work or stream crossings. Therefore, there would be no effect to Federally Threatened and Endangered Species associated with the NAA.

3.13 Air Quality

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) EnviroMapper, Pike County, Kentucky, is listed as “unclassifiable/attainment” for all criteria pollutants. Under the PAA, emissions from construction equipment would occur during the construction period. Contractors would be required to operate all equipment in accordance with local, state, and Federal regulations. The PAA is exempt through 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 or have direct emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursor. Any impacts would be short-term, localized and would occur during construction activities. Impacts to air quality under the PAA would be temporary during construction and would be considered minor.

No impacts to air quality are anticipated 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 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, or existing noise conditions that residents already experience in the project area such as traffic along State Highway 80 or passing trains. 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

E.O. 12898, as amended, requires Federal actions to address environmental justice in minority populations and low-income populations. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2020 population estimate for Pike County, Kentucky was 65,024 and does not contain significant minority populations. The 2020 estimates indicate Pike County is 97.7% white and has a median household income of \$34,856 compared with the median household income of \$50,589 for the State of Kentucky. Individuals residing in the county below the poverty level is 23.7% compared to 14.9% statewide. In addition, 20.7% of individuals residing in the County are under the age of 18 compared to 22.4% statewide.

E.O. 13045, as amended, 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 E.O. 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.

Implementation of the PAA would provide residents and children with a safe, reliable drinking water system, thereby improving the living environmental for all residents. No homes or building would be impacted by the proposed project; therefore, the PAA meets the directive of E.O. 12898 and E.O. 13045 by avoiding any disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income population or children.

Under the NAA, residents would continue to rely on the outdated water storage tank, perpetuating health and safety concerns.

3.16 Aesthetics

The project area is a rural community consisting primarily of residential and commercial properties and forested areas. Temporary disturbances of the local aesthetics would be anticipated during construction of the project; however, after construction the excavated areas would be restored to original conditions where possible.

Neither the PAA nor NAA would significantly impact local aesthetics.

3.17 Transportation and Traffic

The proposed project area is serviced by City streets and KY 80. It is not anticipated that any detours or delays to transportation routes would occur. If detours would occur, they would be relatively minor and temporary in nature. Construction on or near road surfaces would be in compliance with standard traffic controls to minimize traffic disruptions and to avoid public safety problems. Impacts anticipated to occur from the PAA would be minimal and temporary in nature.

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 and reliable water storage tank to the residents of the Elkhorn City. The new 200,000-gallon glass lined standpipe water storage tank would be less prone to rust and corrosion and equipped with a mixing system to eliminate dead water storage and other contaminants. Replacing the existing water storage tank is necessary to address public health and safety concerns in the area. The PAA is anticipated to have a long-term, beneficial impact on health and safety for the residents in the City.

Under the NAA, residents in the higher elevations would continue to experience water quality issues such as dead water storage, loss of disinfection and low water pressure. This would impact perpetuating health and safety concerns that could cause negative impacts on the community.



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.

Table 2 - Environmental Compliance Status			
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 USFWS, KYDEP, NRCS and Kentucky Heritage County (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 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, Appalachian News Express, advising the public of this document's availability for review and comment. A copy of the EA will also be placed in the Pike County 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

Elkhorn City is proposing to replace an aging and deteriorating water storage tank with a new and improved water storage tank of the same volume. This improvement would address existing concerns in regard to corrosion, water pressure, and stagnant water. By providing the residents of the City with a safe and reliable water storage tank, the proposed project is anticipated to have long-term beneficial impacts to health and safety. 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 proposed project would take place on previously disturbed land. Health and safety would be realized immediately with project implementation. Negative 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 adverse 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.

Pike County Courthouse
146 Main Street
Pikeville, KY 41501

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
Planning Branch
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701

8.0 REFERENCES

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