

## **DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **Section 594**

#### **Wastewater Treatment Plan Phase 3 Improvements Village of Williamsburg, 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 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Phase 3 Improvements Project, located in the Village of Williamsburg, Ohio. The Preferred Action Alternative would entail updates to the existing WWTP which consists of updating electrical and control equipment in the existing control building and an expansion to accommodate the required equipment, the addition of new final clarifiers, installation of a recycled effluent system for non-potable onsite water use, the addition of a Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition system for plant operation/monitoring, and conversion of the activated sludge treatment system to an environmentally-friendly bio-nutrient removal process. The proposed improvements will also increase the capacity of the plant to one million gallons per day and is a continuation of on-going improvements at the wastewater treatment plant. All construction activity will be within the existing plant or immediately adjacent to it.

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 and water quality which is currently impacted by nutrients from the WWTP's effluent into the East Fork of the Little Miami River. No threatened or endangered species or any associated critical habitat would be 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 probability nutrients into the river and water quality in the project area would remain impaired.

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 improvements at the WWTP.

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 would have no effect on listed species. Coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has also been conducted. There would be no effect to any rare, threatened, or endangered species or sensitive habitats within the project area. The project would be conducted in accordance with the Clean Water Act as there is no fill in jurisdictional Waters of the United States. Finally, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the proposed project has no potential to cause effects. No historic properties would be affected by the proposed undertaking. Appropriate measures and 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 treatment plant improvements project in the Village of Williamsburg, 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.

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