

Draft Environmental Assessment
Section 594
Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 3 Improvements
Village of Williamsburg, Ohio



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
Huntington, West Virginia
March 2017



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Executive Summary

The Village of Williamsburg is proposing to design and construct the third of three phases of improvements to its wastewater treatment plant to allow for adequate handling of future project needs of the surrounding community. The proposed project is consistent with the regional water quality management plan for this area in Ohio. The need to improve the wastewater treatment plant is due to the expected population growth and residential development within the facilities planning area over the next twenty years and the proposed action would improve the level of treatment before discharging into the East Fork of the Little Miami River.

The Proposed Action Alternative would entail updates the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant 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.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the Village of Williamsburg and the Corps established under the authority of Section 594 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 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. 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 Corps implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2.



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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 the Village of Williamsburg, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Background

This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential environmental impacts of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Phase 3 Improvement project as proposed by the Village of Williamsburg (Village), Ohio. The first two phases also involved upgrades to the existing WWTP. The Corps also partnered with the Village on the second phase of WWTP upgrades. A Finding of No Significant Impact for the second phase was signed by the Corps on September 2, 2009. 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 FONSI.

1.2 Purpose, Need, and Authorization

The Village is proposing to construct the third of three phases of improvements to its WWTP. The purpose of the proposed project is to design and construct improvements to the existing WWTP facility to allow for adequate handling of future projected needs of the surrounding community. The proposed project is consistent with the regional water quality management plan for this area in Ohio. The need to improve the WWTP is due to the expected population growth and residential development within the facilities planning area over the next twenty years and the proposed action would improve the level of treatment before discharging into the East Fork of the Little Miami River.

The proposed project is a partnership agreement between the Village of Williamsburg and the Corps established under the authority of Section 594 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 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 ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action Alternative (PAA)

The PAA would update 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 (SCADA) system for plant operation/monitoring, and conversion of the activated sludge treatment system to an environmentally-friendly bio-nutrient removal process. Phase 3 will also increase the capacity of the plant to 1 million gallons per day and is a continuation of on-going improvements at the WWTP. Below is a detailed description of proposed improvements at the WWTP.

- **Site Improvements:** Include adding an influent flow meter, new piping, an alum feed system, and a coarse bubble air diffuser system; replacing the drain lines for the existing sludge storage bin; and installing a new non-potable water system. The existing alum feed system will be maintained (injecting alum prior to the anaerobic tanks), with a second similar system being installed prior to the new secondary clarifiers. Both systems will be used as backup for trimming during high load and maintenance activities. The new non-potable water system entails a 60 gallons per minute (gpm) pump in the existing disinfected effluent wet well used to transfer effluent to yard hydrants and the break tank supplying the belt filter press spray washing system.
- **Biological Nutrient Removal Reactor Improvements:** Includes converting and expanding the two existing sludge storage tanks and four sequencing batch reactors (SBRs) to two anaerobic selector basins and four aeration basins. These units will be connected with gates for continuous-flow and step-feed flow capability. The proposed 80-foot long aeration basin, complete with fine bubble diffusers and effluent weir and secondary clarifier splitter box, will expand this part of the treatment system. Adding mixers, fine bubble diffusers, and an internal 700 gpm recycle submersible pump will complete the installation for startup and buildout operational flexibility. Also included in this group of improvements is the addition of another aeration blower and air supply piping for the fifth aeration basin. The new air supply will allow the existing sludge storage tank to be aerated periodically through a peripheral coarse-bubble system.
- **Secondary Clarifiers and Splitter Box Components:** Includes installing two new spiral scraper clarifiers, each nominally 32 feet in diameter and 14 feet deep. Transportation of the effluent to the existing disinfection system will be made by connecting new pipe with the existing effluent piping. Scum will be collected with surface skimmers and then directed into a well and a 40 gpm scum transfer pump (which will transfer scum to the existing sludge storage tank). Settled solids will be transferred with submersible pumps through the station described below.
- **Return and Waste Activated Sludge Pump Station:** Includes installing two new spiral scraper clarifiers, each nominally 32 feet in diameter and 14 feet deep. Transportation of



the effluent to the existing disinfection system will be made by connecting new pipe with the existing effluent piping. Scum will be collected with surface skimmers and then directed into a well and a 40 gpm scum transfer pump (which will transfer scum to the existing sludge storage tank). Settled solids will be transferred with submersible pumps through the station described below.

- **External Control Building Improvements:** Extension of existing storm sewer to drain the parking area in front of the control building.
- **Electrical and Control System:** Installation of new electrical and new process control components installed in the existing control building.
- **Backup Generator Power Supply:** The existing diesel generator will be replaced with a new 550 kilowatt generator.

2.2 No Action Alternative (NAA)

Under the NAA, the Corps would not provide funding for the project. Additionally, the Village would not implement Phase 3 improvements at the WWTP. The Village has several sources of funding for this project. However, without Corps funding, there would not be sufficient funds to deploy Phase 3 improvements to the WWTP until alternative funding sources were obtained. Without the proposed improvements, the WWTP would not have the capacity to meet projected demands and would impact water quality of the East Fork of the Little Miami River.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Location

The Village of Williamsburg is located in Clermont County, Ohio. The proposed improvements would occur within the existing WWTP or immediately adjacent to it. The WWTP is located adjacent to Mill Street (Figure 1). Figure 2 below shows the facilities planning area for the Village's WWTP, along with the WWTP's current service area. Parts of Williamsburg Township, plus the entire Village are located within the Village's planning area found in eastern Clermont County. Project location mapping can be found in Appendix A.



Figure 1: Village of Williamsburg WWTP Aerial Map

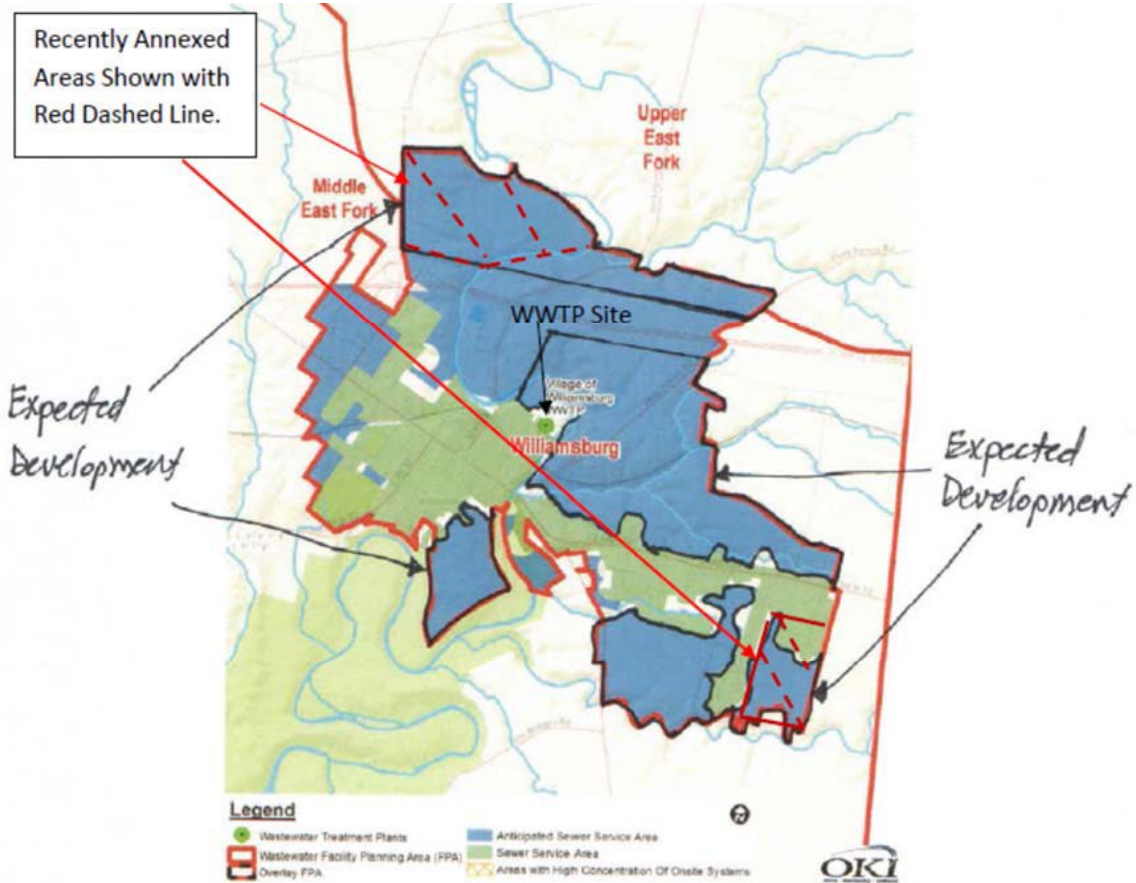


Figure 2: Williamsburg Facilities Planning Area Map.



3.2 Land Use

Land use in the vicinity of the PAA is rural, consisting primarily of residential and small commercial properties. The proposed project would be constructed on previously disturbed land within the existing WWTP or immediately adjacent to it. Thus, no short-term or long-term significant impacts on land use would occur as a result of the proposed improvements within the WWTP. From an indirect and cumulative standpoint, long-term effects on land use are expected to be minimal due to the expected population growth and residential development within the facilities planning area over the next twenty years.

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

3.3 Climate

Executive Order (E.O.) 13653 requires Federal actions to address climate change. East Fork of the Little Miami River Watershed's mid-latitude continental position makes it susceptible to highly variable weather throughout the year. The watershed's climate is greatly influenced by oceanic and atmospheric interactions. The watershed experiences seasonal weather patterns throughout the year, with climatic conditions typical of summer, fall, winter, and spring seasons for the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Regions of the United States. Summers are usually characterized by warm to hot weather with periods of high humidity. Winters within the watershed are typically mild to moderate for cold temperatures and experiencing snowfall. Fall is typically the driest season, while spring is usually the wettest season within the watershed.

The PAA would not involve any activity that could affect the environment in regard to climate change. This region is not projected to experience severe drought conditions and is instead expected to experience more precipitation in the future as larger and more intense rainfalls have become more frequent. As a result, the condition of the PAA would not likely be influenced by future climate change. For the same reasons, there are also no impacts expected with respect to climate as a result of the NAA.

3.4 Terrestrial Habitat

The PAA would be constructed on previously disturbed areas within the footprint of the existing WWTP or immediately adjacent to it. Vegetation in the project area is comprised of mostly grasses and a few trees. Within the WWTP the presence of a few trees planted for landscaping reasons is located west of the sludge storage facilities. It is not expected that these trees would need to be removed to facilitate construction. Only short-term temporary impacts during construction are anticipated to occur. Long-term beneficial positive impacts would occur from the PAA with water quality improvements.

As the 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

Executive Order 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 Map (FIRM) was reviewed and portions of the proposed project are located within the base floodplain or the area that has a 1-percent chance or greater of having a flood in any given year (<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones>). Portions of the proposed project are located inside the East Fork of the Little Miami River's floodplain. However, none of this site is located within the river's floodway. Flood protection is mainly provided by a ring levee constructed around the WWTP when it was updated in 1989-1990 with a height exceeding the 100-year flood height of 808 feet above mean sea level (msl). Any work, including fill in the protected area would not impact the floodplain. In areas not protected by the ring levee, minimal grading is proposed. No excess of evacuated soil expected to be generated during the proposed project can be used to fill any floodplains. Therefore, no significant impacts to the floodplain are anticipated to occur from the PAA.

There would be no impacts to the floodplain as a result of the NAA as no changes would occur.

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 project area is located in the previously disturbed WWTP. The Corps Huntington District has determined since the area is pre-disturbed, the FPPA would not apply to this proposed project and no impact on Prime or Unique, Statewide, or Locally important farmland would occur. Coordination with NRCS is ongoing and will be completed prior to issuance of a FONSI.

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

3.7 Aquatic Habitat/Water Quality

The Village is located within the Little Miami River Watershed. Several waterbodies within the watershed are listed on Ohio's 2012 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. The East Fork of the Little Miami River is listed causes of impairment are nutrients, pathogens, and siltation. Implementation of the PAA would not result in any new discharge of a pollutant. The East Fork of the Little Miami River is noted for its state resource water and exceptional warmwater habitat use designations. Harsha Lake is downstream of the WWTP and serves as a water supply source to the area. These high quality designations stem from the river's potential to support "unusual and exceptional" assemblages of aquatic organisms which are characterized by a high diversity of species, particularly those which are highly intolerant and/or rare, threatened, endangered, or special status (i.e., declining species), and the lake's recreational uses. Implementation of the proposed project would help maintain water quality in the East Fork of the Little Miami River. Additionally, by the Village removing nutrients from its WWTP's effluent, water quality would improve and Harsha Lake's use as a source of potable water for Clermont County is expected to benefit. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used throughout the project.



Construction of the PAA would avoid any permanent and temporary in-stream impacts. Therefore, under the Clean Water Act, a 404 permit is not needed for this action. Given the proximity of the East Fork of the Little Miami River and its adjacent aquifer to the work area, it is anticipated that ground water will be encountered. As a result, temporary site dewatering during construction of the proposed project is expected to be necessary. All dewatering flows will be filtered before discharge to any storm sewers or other stabilized sites. Any variations from the proposed dewatering plan may require additional review and approval by Ohio EPA. All dewatering activities will conform to the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and any National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. Once construction is successfully completed, the dewatering activities will cease, and ground water levels will begin to return to their preconstruction levels.

Based on the above, implementation of the PAA would not result in significant short or long term environmental impacts to water quality. In the long term, the implementation of the PAA is expected to have a positive impact on the aquatic habitat and water quality within the proposed project area. Implementation of the PAA would ensure the removal of nutrients from the WWTP's effluent into the East Fork of the Little Miami River and Harsha Lake.

Under the NAA, aquatic impacts would continue in nearby streams and groundwater due to the exposure to nutrients and water quality in the project area would remain impaired.

3.8 Wetlands

National Wetland Inventory Maps (NWI) were reviewed for the proposed project area and a site reconnaissance was conducted to determine validity of NWI Maps. NWI maps indicated that there are no wetlands adjacent to the project area. The site reconnaissance also indicated 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

East Fork of the Little Miami is not a Wild and Scenic River. However, it does eventually flow to the Little Miami River (designated National Wild and Scenic River) after passing through Harsha Lake. 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 Williamsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project to identify environmental conditions and to identify the potential presence of HTRW contamination located within the project's construction work limits. The Corps HTRW staff determined the Phase 1 HTRW Investigation Report is acceptable on February 24, 2017 and no further HTRW action is required. Therefore, no impacts to HTRW are anticipated with the PAA.



The NAA would not result in ground disturbing activities, and would not disturb areas of HTRW contamination; therefore, there are no HTRW impacts associated with the NAA.

3.11 Cultural Resources

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps has made the determination that the proposed undertaking has no potential to cause effects. A previous Phase I archeological survey covering the majority of the WWTP site was performed in 1987 and 1988, which did not result in the discovery of archeological material. The WWTP has also undergone a heavy amount of disturbance and it is highly unlikely archeological material will be uncovered within the boundaries of the project area. In accordance with 800.3(a)(1), the District has fulfilled its obligations under Section 106.

If unanticipated archeological deposits or human remains are discovered during construction, all work near the location of the discovery shall cease and the Resource Manager and District Archeologist shall be contacted immediately. The Ohio State Police, Clermont County Coroner, and the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office shall also be notified immediately if human remains are discovered.

3.12 Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the project area is within the range of the Pink mucket mussel (*Lampsyllis abrupta*), Rayed Bean mussel (*Villoa fabalis*), Fanshell mussel (*Cyprogenia stegaria*), Snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*), Sheepnose mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*), Running Buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalist*), Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act). These species habitat needs are not met by the conditions found at the Village's WWTP. The proposed action would occur in the previously disturbed WWTP footprint and no tree clearing or in-water work will take place for this action; therefore; the Corps's Huntington District has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on endangered or threatened species. No Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act is required. However, the USFWS will be coordinated with through this draft EA regarding this project under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

No impacts to threatened or endangered species are anticipated to occur from the PAA or the NAA.

3.13 Air Quality

According to the Ohio EPA, Clermont County is classified as "in attainment" (maintaining applicable standards) for four of the major six criteria pollutants with the exception of ozone and sulfur dioxide. In areas that are in nonattainment, or re-designated in attainment with a maintenance plan, the Clean Air Act requires that the federal government make a conformity determination to assure their actions would conform to the State Implementation Plan. However,



because the estimated emissions from construction equipment would be far below the de minimis standards of 100 tons/year, a conformity determination is not required.

The proposed Phase 3 improvements are expected to have no direct or indirect effects as the air quality provisions in the detail plans and specifications will minimize all air quality impacts during construction. Given that the proposed project is expected to be completed over a 15 month period, within a relatively isolated areas, residents are unlikely to encounter increases to heavy truck traffic on a regular basis or experience increased ozone levels directly from this construction activities. 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 Whitepaper, 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 3.1 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, and grader are examples of equipment that is likely to be used during construction. Noise generated from construction equipment to be utilized during



construction range from 80 and 85 dBA, measured from a distance of 50 feet (Federal Highway Administration, 2006). The Corps Safety and Health Requirements Manual, indicate that temporary noise exposure for a period of eight hours at a level of 90 dBA is permissible for Non-Department of Defense Noise Exposures. Since individual noise receptors would be located more than 80 feet from the project construction area, the noise levels and the period of exposure would fall within acceptable limits and would not require additional sound reduction controls.

Construction equipment would be operated during daylight hours between the hours of 7AM and 5PM when many residents are at work; therefore a reasonable exposure time of two hours would be expected during the time residents may be home during the day. Limited exposures and time intervals are 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 with the NAA.

3.15 Environmental Justice

Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 requires Federal actions to address environmental justice in minority populations and low-income populations. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2015 population estimate for Clermont County was 201,973 and does not contain significant minority populations. The 2015 census indicates Clermont County is 95.5% white and has a median household income of \$60,805 compared with the median household income of \$53,889 for the State of Ohio. Individuals residing in the county below the poverty level is 9.5% compared to 13.5% statewide.

Implementation of the PAA would ensure the removal of nutrients from the WWTP's effluent into the East Fork of the Little Miami River and Harsha Lake, 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 by avoiding any disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low income populations.

No impacts to minority or low income populations are anticipated to occur from the NAA.

3.16 Aesthetics

The project area is rural, primarily consisting of residential properties, some commercial businesses, and roads. Temporary disturbance of the local aesthetics would be anticipated during construction to separate the combined sewer overflow; however after construction, the sites would be restored to original conditions.

Neither the PAA nor NAA would significantly impact local aesthetics.



3.17 Transportation and Traffic

The proposed improvements would occur within the existing WWTP or immediately adjacent to the plant. It is unlikely that residents would encounter increases in heavy truck traffic on a regular basis. All appropriate ODOT guidelines for traffic control would be implemented and emergency access would be maintained. 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 ensure the removal of nutrients from the WWTP's effluent into the East Fork of the Little Miami River and Harsha Lake. Harsha Lake's is a source of potable water for Clermont County and this would proposed action would thereby help contribute to improving the living environment for all residents. Therefore, the PAA is anticipated to have a long term beneficial impact on health and safety of the project area.

Under the NAA, current nutrient releases from the WWTP's effluent would continue; perpetuating health and safety concerns.

3.19 Cumulative Effects

The Corps must consider the cumulative effects of the proposed project on the environment as stipulated in the 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 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 1502.22).

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 separate stormwater system would have minimal and insignificant negative impacts on the environment. Long term beneficial effects will result from the project and would include health, safety, and



water quality. 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 Little Miami River Watershed.

The Little Miami River Watershed is listed on Ohio's 2012 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters where it is rated as impaired for are nutrients, pathogens, and siltation. In the past, the Village upgraded the WWTP in 1990 and the first two phases of improvements completed in 2010 and 2012. The first two phases of improvements were targeted to mitigate the high flows associated with wet weather conditions, improve the solids storage and handling facilities, and replace the aging treatment and disinfection equipment. Currently, the Little Miami Conservancy works for restoration and protection of the Little Miami River and its tributaries. This organization owns 100 nature preserves along the Little Miami and several tributaries, preserving and protecting riverfront forests and lands. Clermont County Soil and Water Conservation District is currently promoting water quality and educational programs and continues to play an active role in the Little Miami Watershed. In the future, watershed programs may address water quality and conservation activities. Impairment of the East Fork of the Little Miami River Watershed is expected to continue but if the proposed actions are implemented, a cleaner, healthier watershed would be promoted. Water quality standards and regulations are expected to remain as stringent today as in the future.

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 result in similar effects may include the subsequent phased upgrading of the WWTP. 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 the current program is 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.

4.0 Status of Environmental Compliance

The PAA is in full compliance with all local, State, and Federal statutes as well as Executive Orders with the exception of the Farmland Protection Policy Act. Coordination with NRCS is on-going and coordination under the Farmland Protection Policy Act will be completed 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 | | |

*Anticipated FONSI signature to occur after public review

5.0 REQUIRED COORDINATION

5.1 Agencies Contacted

Direct coordination with the OEPA and Ohio Department Natural Resources (ODNR) 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 made 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 Clermont Sun, advising the public of this document's availability for review and comment. A copy of the EA will also be placed in the Clermont Public Library and was 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 is currently needing to improve the WWTP due to the expected population growth and residential development within the facilities planning area over the next twenty years and to improve the level of treatment before discharging into the East Fork of the Little Miami River. By removing the nutrients from the WWTP's effluent into the river health and safety for the



project will be realized. No significant adverse impacts have been identified as a result of implementation of the proposed improvements project.

Construction 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 environment.