

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Section 531

Hollybush / KY 645 Water and Sewer Extension Project Martin County, Kentucky

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 Hollybush / KY 645 Water and Sewer Extension Project, located in Martin County, Kentucky. The Preferred Action Alternative would entail construction and installation water and sewer lines, pump station, and water storage tank. The sanitary sewer extension will tie into an existing sewage pump station and includes approximately 5,400 LF of 6" PVC force main and a duplex grinder pump station. Also included, will be two service connections, highway bore for the 6" force main and a connection to an existing sewage pump station located near the intersection of KY 40 and KY 645. The water service extension includes approximately 5,500 LF of 8" water main, a booster pumping station and an approximate 150,000 gallon water storage tank, service connections, highway bore for the 8" water main, and fire hydrant assemblies. Water and sewer lines would be installed utilizing an open cut trench. The depth of the trench would vary throughout the project to accommodate the changes in elevation and slope. After construction, the displaced soils would be backfilled and restored to preexisting conditions. The sites for the pump stations and storage tank will be permanently converted to utility space

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 impacts on public health and safety which currently has no water or sewer utility service. No threatened or endangered species or any associated critical habitat would be adversely impacted by the PAA. Under the NAA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) would not provide the funding for the project.

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 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. Users of the facility would benefit from the proposed action through access to public water supply and proper disposal of wastewater.

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 will have no effect on listed species. Coordination with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife 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 has no effect on historic properties. 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 water and sewer extension project in Martin County, 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