

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Section 594 Middleport Main Street Area Sewer Improvement Project Meigs 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 Middleport Main Street Area Sewer Improvement Project, located in Meigs County, Ohio. The Proposed Action Alternative would entail sewer separation, the replacement of sanitary sewer, the installation of storm sewer, and the installation of sanitary sewer along numerous streets and alleys within the Village of Middleport (Village), including Logan Street, Broadway Street, E Alley, Laurel Street, Lincoln Street, Pearl Street, Second Avenue, Third Avenue, Fourth Avenue, Fifth Avenue, Hooker Street, Main Street, Palmer Street, H Alley, Covert Lane, and Williams Street. The project will eliminate excessive flow, which causes basement flooding and increases pumping and treatment costs, separate storm and sanitary sewers, eliminate combined sewer overflows (CSO) #11, reduce the number of CSOs annually, which will be required in the Village's NPDES Permit, separate storm and sanitary sewers, and assist in adequately conveying flow from six mine waste outfalls located in the northwest section of the Village away from the Village's sewer treatment plant.

The proposed action alternative estimates installation including 4,000 linear feet (LF) of 6" storm sewer laterals; repair of 1,050 LF of 6, 8, and 10-inch storm sewers; repair/replacement of 2,050 LF of 12, 15, 18, 24, 30, 36, and 48-inch storm sewer; installation of 100 LF of 60" storm sewer; rehabilitation of 500 LF of existing 48"x48" combination sewer; installation of 1,100 LF of 18-inch sanitary sewer; installation of 825 LF of 12-inch sanitary sewer; installation of 9,000 LF of 8-inch sanitary sewer; installation of 4,000 LF of 6-inch sanitary sewer laterals; installation of 38 sanitary sewer manholes; installation of 7 catch basins; installation of 10 storm sewer manholes; associated concrete, curb, pavement, and sidewalk replacement; and water meter relocation, after service replacement, and water main relocating.

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 an ageing water system in the project area. 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. Additionally, the NAA would result in continued health and safety risks for residents due to increased probability of backflow of contaminant sources into the water system during depressurization events caused by water line breaks and inadequate fire-fighting pressure in the system.

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 a safe reliable water system.

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 water system improvements project in Middleport, Ohio, 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

WILLIAM J. MILLER
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding