



Environmental
Protection Agency

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

October 2, 2012

Notice of Issuance of a Limited Environmental Review and Final Finding of No
Significant Impact to All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government
Agencies

City of Cincinnati
Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Belclare Road Water Main Replacement Project,
Coffey Street and Rainbow Lane Water Main Replacement Project,
Oregon and Baum Streets Water Main Replacement Project, and
Hageman and Rockdale Avenues Water Main Replacement Project
FS-390255-0019, FS-390255-0020, FS-390255-0021, and FS-390255-0025

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the referenced projects and finds neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor a Supplemental Study (SS) is required to implement the projects as discussed in the attached Limited Environmental Review (LER). Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is being issued for these projects.

The Drinking Water Assistance Fund program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process for project approval. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed actions in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the project plans, as well as through the project plan review process. A subsequent review by this Agency has found that the proposed actions do not require the preparation of either an EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed projects are limited in scope and meet all applicable criteria, a Limited Environmental Review is warranted. Specifically, the projects entail the replacement of deteriorating waterlines, and are not for the construction of new or expanded facilities.

Furthermore, the proposed projects:

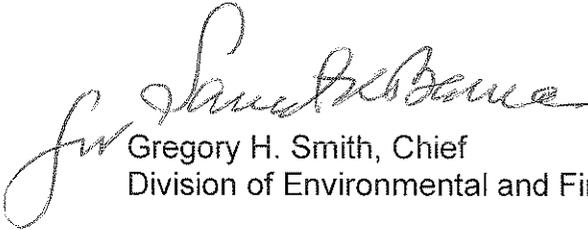
- have no significant environmental effect;
- do not require extensive specific impact mitigation;
- have no effect on high value environmental resources;
- are cost effective;
- are not a controversial action;
- do not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters;

- do not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source;
- will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters; and
- will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population.

The LER presents additional information on the proposed projects, costs, and basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person named at the end of the LER.

Upon issuance of this determination, loan award may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions on the proposed projects have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory H. Smith".

Gregory H. Smith, Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

GHS/CB/SM

cc: Gina Hayes, SWDO-DDAGW
Sue Farmer, OWDA
File

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Project Identification

Name: City of Cincinnati
Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)

1. Belclare Road Water Main Replacement Project
2. Coffey Street and Rainbow Lane Water Main Replacement Project
3. Oregon and Baum Streets Water Main Replacement Project
4. Hageman and Rockdale Avenues Water Main Replacement Project

Address: Carel Vandermeijden, GCWW Chief Engineer
4747 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

WSRLA No.: 1. FS390255-0019
2. FS390255-0020
3. FS390255-0021
4. FS390255-0025

B. Project Background and Existing Need

The City of Cincinnati GCWW has applied to Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for low-interest financing of four proposed projects involving the replacement of water lines within the GCWW service area. This document summarizes Ohio EPA's WSRLA-required environmental review of the proposed water main replacement projects.

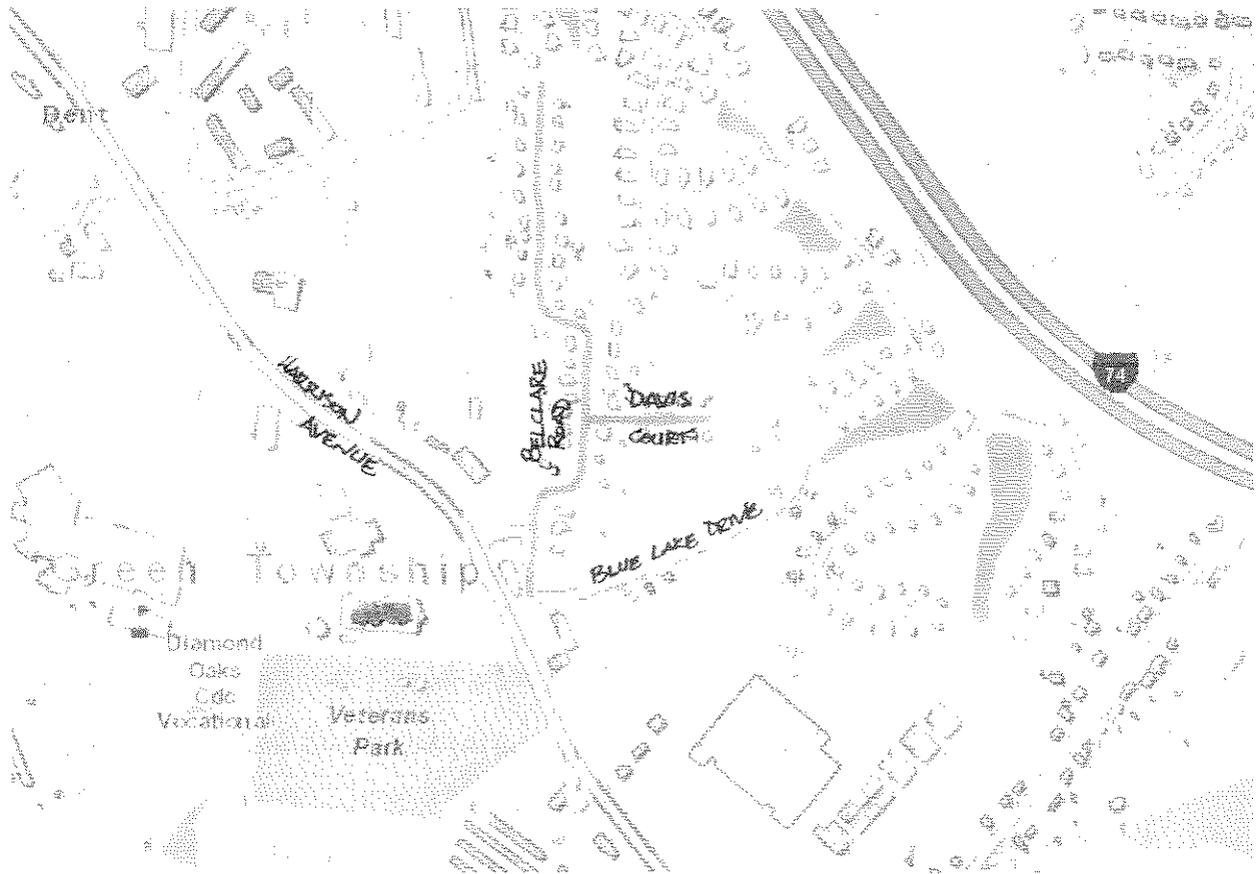
GCWW provides about 136 million gallons of water a day through approximately 3,100 miles of water mains to most of Hamilton County and parts of Butler and Warren counties in Ohio, and to Boone County in Kentucky. GCWW supplies water from two sources. The Miller Treatment Plant treats surface water from the Ohio River, and the Bolton Treatment Plant treats ground water from wells in the Great Miami Aquifer, which is located in southern Butler County. Water from the Miller and Bolton treatment plants is delivered to customers in an open distribution system, which means water from both sources is mixed in the water mains.

The proposed projects will serve an existing need to replace a number of older, higher maintenance, cast iron water mains in the GCWW distribution system, some of which date back to the early 1900s. These projects are part of GCWW's ongoing water main replacement program, which proactively addresses the older water mains in the distribution system.

C. Project Descriptions

Belclare Road Water Main Replacement Project:

The Belclare Road water main replacement project replaces several older water mains in the GCWW distribution system in Belclare Road and Davis Court in western Hamilton County (see map below). All of these water mains date back to the mid-1920s. The existing 6-inch and 8-inch diameter water distribution mains are being replaced with new 6-inch and 8-inch distribution mains, which will be installed in existing road right-of-way. This construction project includes replacement of approximately 2,500 feet of water main.



Coffey Street / Rainbow Lane Water Main Replacement Project:

The Coffey Street / Rainbow Lane water main replacement project replaces a number of older, cast iron water mains in the GCWW distribution system in Coffey Street, Rainbow Lane, Graf Drive, Findlater Court, Rainbow Court, Triesta Court, Hialea Court, and Kenlee Drive in southeastern Hamilton County (see map below). All of these water mains date back between the late 1940s and early 1950s. The existing 6-inch diameter water distribution mains are being replaced with a new 6-inch and 8-inch distribution mains, which will be installed in existing right-of-way. This construction project includes replacement of approximately 8,375 feet of water main.



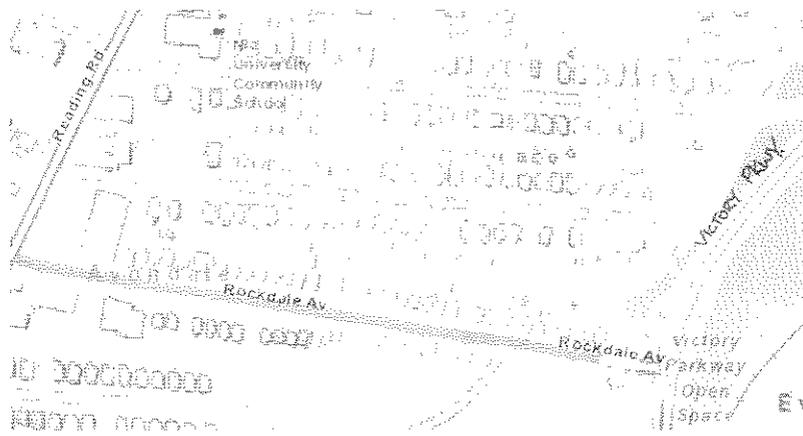
Oregon Street / Baum Street Water Main Replacement Project:

The Oregon Street / Baum Street water main replacement project replaces a number of older, cast iron water mains in the GCWW distribution system in Oregon Street, Baum Street, Monastery Street, and Kilgour Street just east of downtown Cincinnati (see map below). All of these water mains date back to the 1930s. The existing 6-inch diameter water distribution mains are being replaced with new 8-inch distribution mains, which will be installed in the existing road right-of-way. This construction project includes replacement of approximately 2,814 feet of water main.



Hageman Avenue / Rockdale Avenue Water Main Replacement Project:

The Hageman Avenue / Rockdale Avenue water main replacement project replaces a number of older, cast iron water mains in the GCWW distribution system in Hageman Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, and Orchard Street in northeastern Hamilton County, and Rockdale Avenue north of downtown Cincinnati (see maps below). All of these water mains date back to the early 1900s and mid-1920s. The existing 6-inch diameter water distribution mains are being replaced with new 8-inch and 12-inch distribution mains, which will be installed in the existing road right-of-way. This construction project includes replacement of approximately 5,500 feet of water main.



Installation of all these new service mains will require a 3-foot wide trench with an average depth of approximately 4.5 feet. These new water mains will replace existing waterlines in the existing road rights-of-way.

Construction of the waterline replacement should be fairly straight-forward. A trench will be dug in the existing road rights-of-way, very near the existing waterlines. The new waterlines will be installed, tested, and connected to the upstream and downstream portions of the existing waterlines that are to remain in operation. The remainder of the existing waterlines will be abandoned in-place. The new waterlines will be installed beneath the edge of pavement and under the pavement. The planned restoration consists of the placement of granular backfill below, around, and 12 inches above the top of the pipe. Controlled Density Fill material is backfilled on top of the granular backfill, and then followed by 11 inches of concrete and a final 2 inches of hot mix asphalt. It should be noted that the entire project area has been previously disturbed by the installation of the original waterlines, other existing underground utilities, roads, and development, so little adverse impact is expected.

D. Estimated Project Costs

The project costs are expected to be funded with a low-interest loan through the State of Ohio's Drinking Water Assistance Fund (specifically the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account), administered by Ohio EPA.

The estimated project costs are listed below:

Belclare Road Water Main Replacement Project - \$408,000
Coffey Street and Rainbow Lane Water Main Replacement Project - \$1,476,000
Oregon and Baum Streets Water Main Replacement Project - \$446,000
Hageman and Rockdale Avenues Water Main Replacement Project - \$1,143,000

GCWW qualifies as a non-disadvantaged system with affordability points, which means GCWW qualifies for a 2% interest rate for up to 20 years. By using the WSRLA instead of market rate funding, GWCC will save its customers over \$950,000 in interest costs.

The WSRLA loan will be repaid through revenue generated by GCWW's user charge system. The current user charge rates have been in effect since January 1, 2012. Based on the current user charge rates, the average residential customer within the City of Cincinnati, using an assumed 2,807 cubic feet (28.07 CCF) of water per quarter, would pay a quarterly bill of \$72.77 (\$2.13 per CCF used and \$12.98/quarter service charge). It is not anticipated that the proposed project will necessitate an increase in the user charge rates. This quarterly rate translates to an average annual (inside Cincinnati) residential expenditure of \$291.08 for finished water. This project is within the City of Cincinnati, and the rate calculations were based on GCWW's user rates for customers inside Cincinnati. Different service areas will have different user charges. Please see www.cincinnati-oh.gov for more information on water service charges.

Cincinnati's annual median household income (MHI) is \$33,855 and the average annual user charge within the city is \$291.08, which is 0.9 % of the median household income

for the project area. This is well below the Ohio average of 1.2% (the 2008 state average annual user charge for water supply services as a percentage of the 2000 Ohio MHI).

Cincinnati's projected average annual user cost is below the range of surrounding communities, namely: Addyston (population 481) - \$528, Lockland (population 3,488) - \$385, and Wyoming (population 8,347) - \$572. The City of Cincinnati's population is 332,572.

E. Project Schedule

It is expected that the WSRLA loan for the four water main replacement projects will be awarded in October 2012. Construction schedules for the four projects are listed below.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Belclare	10/15/12	120 days
Coffey/Rainbow	10/24/12	180 days
Oregon/Baum	11/19/12	120 days
Hageman/Rockdale	10/23/12	180 days

F. Public Notification

GCWW is very proactive in terms of its public awareness for waterline replacement projects. The annual reports notify the public of the progress that GCWW is making in replacing its old, inadequate infrastructure. GCWW maintains a very user-friendly website (<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/>), which is updated regularly to notify the public of projects and other current news.

Ohio EPA will issue a copy of its Limited Environmental Review (LER) decision and Finding of No Significant Impact for these projects to interested parties. Supporting documentation for the LER decision is available for public inspection on Ohio EPA's website (http://www.epa.state.oh.us/defa/public_comment.aspx) or upon request at the following address:

Ohio EPA
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
P.O. Box 1049
50 W. Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

G. Planning Information

The following agencies have reviewed and commented on the facilities planning information for the proposed project:

Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

No opposition to the project is known at this time.

H. Conclusion

The proposed water main replacement projects meet Ohio EPA's general criteria for a Limited Environmental Review; namely, it is an action in a portion of an already existing water system that is designed to replace the existing waterlines. Furthermore, the projects meet the following, specific qualifying criteria for a LER:

- They will have no significant adverse environmental effect, as the proposed projects will only involve the installation of replacement waterlines in previously-disturbed areas. The planning activities for the project identified no potentially significant adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources such as floodplains, wetlands, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeological sites, or threatened or endangered species;
- They do not require extensive specific impact mitigation, as they will involve a relatively simple, shallow-trench installation of replacement waterlines within road rights-of-way in existing developed areas, previously disturbed by the construction of roads. Thus, environmental impact mitigation is not expected to be extensive or elaborate, consisting primarily of construction best management practices;
- They will have no effect on high value environmental resources, as they will involve construction in an existing developed area, where no high value environmental resources were found during the environmental review, or would be expected to occur;
- They are cost-effective, as replacement of these lines will help to economically ensure a continuous potable drinking water supply to residents at a reasonable cost, and will eliminate substantial water loss;

- They are not a controversial action, as they will not increase user charges or create significant adverse impacts, and there is no known opposition to the projects at this time;
- They will not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; will not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source; will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters; and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population, since the proposed projects merely replace waterlines in an existing developed area, and do not involve any wastewater treatment activities (point source discharges, volumes of pollutants, etc.), any new water supplies, or capacity for significant expansion.

I. **For further information, please contact:**

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