



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

February 5, 2018

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
Indianwoods Drive Water Main Replacement
FS390255-0069

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the referenced project and finds that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor a Supplemental Study (SS) is required to complete the environmental review of the project. Instead, this project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER). These criteria are summarized below in this document and in the attached LER.

This project will replace the existing 6-inch and 8-inch diameter cast-iron water lines in the Indian Woods Drive Area because they have a high break frequency. The project will benefit the Cincinnati area by providing improved water service that is safe and reliable for residents and businesses, and will help reduce water system costs by minimizing/eliminating water loss due to leakage from old, failing water mains and by avoiding costly emergency repairs.

The LER was completed for this project as it will not individually, cumulatively over time or in conjunction with other Federal, State local or private actions have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment. Consequently, a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) can be issued now for this project.

The Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) program required 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 action in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the

facilities planning process. A subsequent review by this Agency has found that the proposed action does not require the preparation of a EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed project is limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria, an LER is warranted. Furthermore, the proposed project:

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

Maps depicting the locations of the project are included as part of the LER. The LER presents information on the proposed project, its costs and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person listed on the back of the LER.

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

Sincerely,



Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief
Office of Financial Assistance
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Ohio EPA

Attachment

Cc: David Smith, DEFA-OFA, PCU
Gina Hayes, Ohio EPA DDAGW, SWDO
Daniel Osika, Ohio EPA DDAGW, SWDO
Ken Heigel, OWDA
File

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The following project qualifies for a Limited Environmental Review (LER) based on criteria found in Rule 3745-150-05 of the Ohio Administrative Code. A project must meet all criteria for both project *type* and *potential adverse impacts* to qualify for an LER.

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Name: **City of Cincinnati
Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Indianwoods Drive Water Main Replacement**

Applicant Address: **Mr. Jeffrey M. Pieper, Chief Engineer
Greater Cincinnati Water Works
4747 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232**

WSRLA No.: **FS390255-0069**

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Indianwoods Drive Water Main Replacement project will be constructed as part of the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) infrastructure management program. The goal of this project is to replace the existing 6-inch and 8-inch diameter cast-iron water lines in this area because they have a high break frequency. The replacement of these water lines with new 6-inch and 8-inch diameter ductile iron water lines will improve water service, decrease the burden on water maintenance operations and reduce water loss.

The Indianwoods Drive project is in northeastern Cincinnati (Figure 1). The project includes work along Indian Woods Drive from its intersection with Weller to its east terminus; along Brandywine Lane from its north to its south terminus; along Merrick Lane from its north to its south terminus; along Turtle Creek Lane from Indian Woods Drive to its south terminus; and along Weller Road from Thistlewood Court to Indian Woods Drive (Figure 2). The project provides for the general rehabilitation of the area distribution system and includes the replacement and installation of approximately 1,805 linear feet of 6-inch diameter and 3,130 feet of 8-inch diameter water lines and all services encountered during the replacement work. The existing water lines are 42 to 60 years old.

The GCWW provides approximately 136 million gallons of water per day through 3,100 miles of water mains to most of Hamilton County, portions of Butler and Warren counties and Boone County in Kentucky. The GCWW supplies water from two sources: the Richard Miller Water Treatment Plant (WTP) that treats water from the Ohio River, and the Bolton WTP that treats water drawn from wells in the Great Miami Aquifer. Water from both WTPs is delivered to customers through an open distribution system, which means that treated water from both plants is mixed within the water mains. The city's waterline replacement projects, including the Indianwoods Drive project, is part of a comprehensive effort to replace older, higher-maintenance cast iron water mains located with GCWW's distribution system.

Installation of the water main replacement lines will be straightforward. A trench will be dug within the existing road rights-of-way adjacent to the existing mains to be replaced. The new mains will be installed

beneath the edge of pavement or under existing pavement, depending on the location of the existing main. Next, the new mains will be surrounded with granular backfill bedding material, followed by controlled density fill material, then 11 inches of concrete and two inches of hot mix asphalt. Once installed, the new mains will be pressure- and bacteria-tested and reconnected to the existing service branches and then the up- and downstream mains. The existing mains will be abandoned in-place.

C. PROJECT COSTS

Project Cost	\$932,948
WSRLA Principle Loan Amount	\$932,948
WSRLA Loan Term	20 years
WSRLA Interest Rate	1.31%
Market interest rate	3.06%
WSRLA Savings	\$190,742

D. AFFORDABILITY CRITERIA

Existing Rates	\$317/yr.	Average rates for Cincinnati residential users in effect prior to project implementation
Rate Increases to repay WSRLA loan	None	No rate increases have been enacted specifically to repay the WSRLA loan
Community MHI	\$33,604	Based on American Community Survey of 2011-2015
Percent of MHI	1%	Percent of Cincinnati's MHI represented by the annual rate after any increases

Rates that are less than 1.5% of the MHI are generally considered affordable.

E. AUTHORIZATION and PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

The City of Cincinnati's City Council passed Ordinance No. 317-2016 authorizing the city to sign the WSRLA loan application with Ohio EPA. This project is included as a line item in the entire GCWW capital program, which is included in the City's recommended budget. The budget is posted online at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/finance/budget/. The City Council approves the entire capital budget as a whole, for GCWW, not individual projects. Before the GCWW starts construction on a project, they will advise the public in the following manner:

1. The GCWW will issue a notification letter to every resident and business located within the project area before any construction starts. The letter describes the project schedule, traffic restrictions and the contact information for the project manager.
2. The GCWW will also post this LER to its webpage.

Additionally, as part of its State Environmental Review Process, Ohio EPA will post this LER to the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance's (DEFA) web page located at: <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> (under the tab "What's New." Scroll down to view "WSRLA Documents for Review and Comment").

Ohio EPA is unaware of any public opposition to the project.

F. PROPOSED SCHEDULE

WSRLA Loan Award	February 2018
Begin Project	January 2018
Complete Project	Summer 2018

G. LER CRITERIA REVIEW**1. Will this project have the potential to result in significant adverse environmental impact?**

Impact Type			Rationale
	Yes	No	
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No unusual or excessive air pollution associated with construction of this project
Archeological or historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project located within previously-disturbed road rights-of-way
Coastal zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project not located in coastal zone
Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No threatened/endangered species habitat present
Farmland Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No farmland located within project area
Fish and wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project located within road rights-of-way, so it will not affect fish or wildlife habitat
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project not located in a floodplain area
Ground water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project location and depth will not affect ground water resources
Safety, Noise and Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adequately addressed in specifications
Safe drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project is distant from public water wells and surface water drinking water sources
Surface water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project not located in proximity to any surface waters
Terrestrial habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project located within road rights-of-way, so no trees or other terrestrial vegetation will be affected
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No wetlands located within project area
Wild and scenic rivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None located in project area

2. Will this project require extensive impact mitigation unique to the assistance proposal?

Description of required mitigation	Required?		If needed, provide a brief explanation
	Yes	No	
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Only standard vehicle emission and dust control measures required
Archeological or historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Coastal zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Federal and State T&ES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Farmland Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Fish and wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Ground water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Safety, Noise and Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standard safety measures only
Safe drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Description of required mitigation	Required?		If needed, provide a brief explanation
	Yes	No	
Surface water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Only standard storm water mitigation required
Terrestrial habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wild and scenic rivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

3. Will the project adversely affect a high quality environmental resource?

Description of high quality environmental resources	Yes	No
None are present. All work will occur within existing road rights-of way in a highly-urbanized area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Is the project a controversial action?

Is this project the subject of significant public interest?	Yes	No
DEFA is unaware of any specific public interest in this project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5. Is the project cost-effective?

Cost-effectiveness	Yes	No
This project will improve water service, decrease the burden on water maintenance operations and reduce water loss by targeting water line replacements in areas where the existing water lines are very old.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Potential impacts on pollutant discharge, water withdrawal, and service area?

Will this project create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; 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; create new sources of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing source; or provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population?	Yes	No
This project involves only the replacement of existing water lines, and nothing that would impact pollutant discharge amounts or locations, water sources or service area expansion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Does the Project meet criteria for an LER based on project type and potential impacts?	Yes	No
All work will take place within existing road rights-of-way for the functional replacement of existing water lines.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. BASIS FOR PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the available planning information for this project and the materials presented within this LER, Ohio EPA concludes that the proposed project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to any environmental features. Work associated with this project is limited to the replacement of existing water mains and customer water service transfers. Implementation of appropriate construction mitigation measures is required by the contract specifications and construction activity will be limited to the existing, previously-disturbed road rights-of-way. The project will benefit the Cincinnati area by providing improved water service that is safe and reliable

for residents and businesses, and will help reduce water system costs by minimizing/eliminating water loss due to leakage from old, failing water mains and by avoiding costly emergency repairs.

I. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

For questions about this LER, please contact:

Rose McLean
Ohio EPA
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Figure 1. Project Location

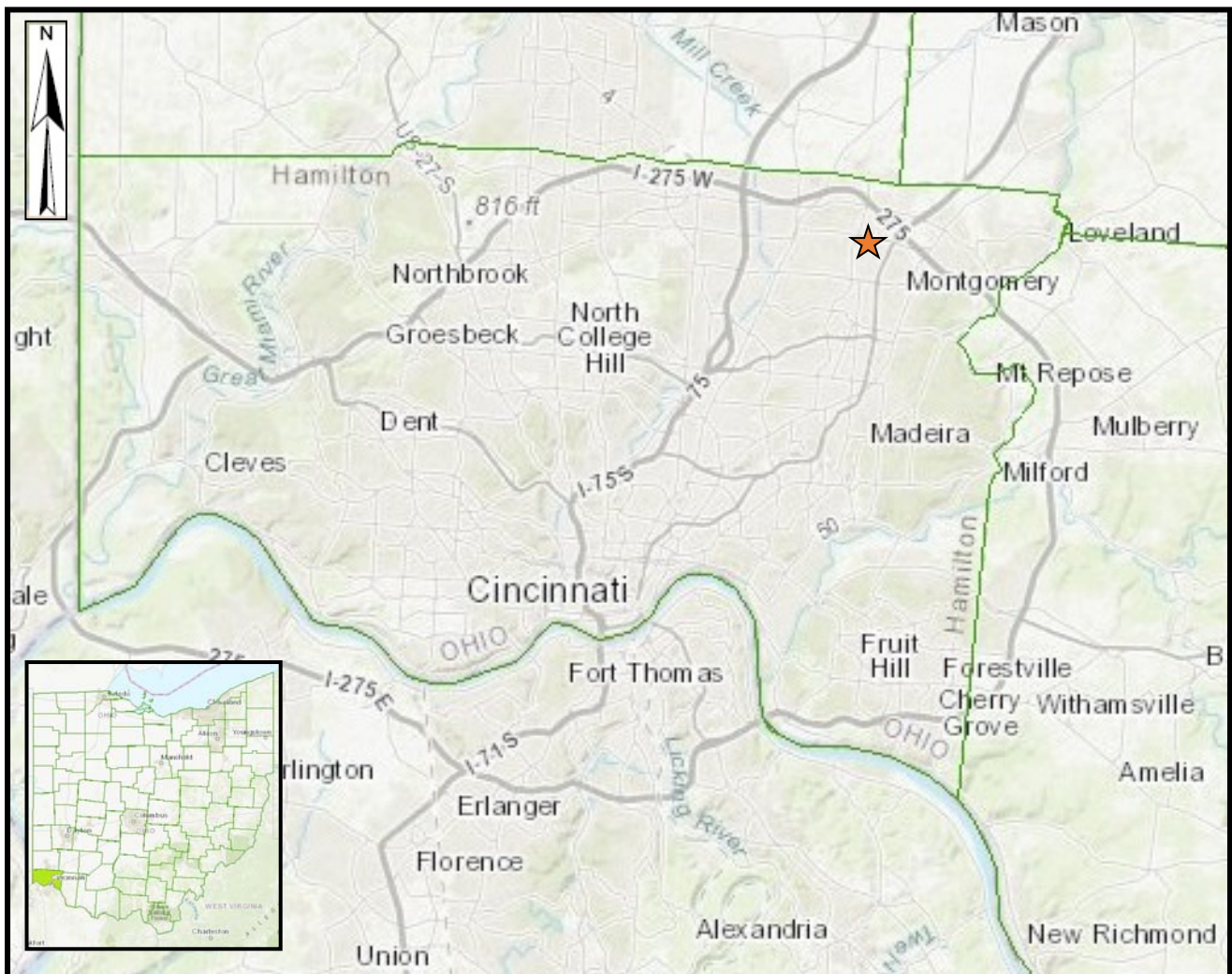


Figure 2. Indianwoods Drive Area Project Detail

