



April 30, 2024

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Woodville – Sandusky County
Water Line Improvements Phase 3
Loan number: FS391013-0016**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a drinking water project in Woodville which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WSRLA program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Water Line Improvements Phase 3

Applicant: Village of Woodville
530 Lime Street
Woodville, Ohio 43469

Loan Number: FS391013-0016



Figure 1. Sandusky County

Project Summary

The Village of Woodville, in Sandusky County (Figure 1), has requested \$730,000 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to finance a portion of the Water Line Improvements Phase 3 project. The approximate total cost of the project is \$2,095,000. The project involves the replacement of aged, deteriorated, and undersized water lines in a portion of Woodville’s public water system (PWS). Due to the nature and location of construction, as well as proposed protection measures to be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, as discussed in the conclusion.

History & Existing Conditions

Woodville’s PWS consists of a water treatment plant (WTP), nine wells, a high service pump station, a 100,000-gallon elevated water storage tank, a 200,000-gallon underground storage tank, and a network of 14 miles of 2-inch through 12-inch distribution lines. The WTP was constructed in 1984 and has a treatment capacity of 1 million gallons daily (MGD). Raw water is sourced from the Karst Aquifer and treated using a process of lime and soda ash softening, flocculation, sedimentation, stabilization, filtration, fluoridation, and finally disinfection before entering the distribution system. Woodville provides an average of 150,000 MGD to 2,000 residents.

Woodville regularly reviews their water system to determine project needs to improve service, reliability, and water quality. Water lines in the Parklane Drive and Riverside Drive area are a combination of 2-inch, 4-inch, and 6-inch water lines believed to be greater than 60 years old and at the end of their useful life. Woodville has received complaints of discolored water from customers served by these lines, and the village conducted 11 water line repairs in this area between 2015 and 2021. Woodville will address these issues by completing water line replacements, as described in the project description.

Project Description

Woodville intends to replace deteriorated and aged water lines by installing an estimated 1,740 linear feet of 12-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) water lines along Pemberville Road; 5,672 linear feet of 8-inch PVC water lines along Riverside, Parklane, Riverview, and Evergreen drives, Pemberville Road, and Trail Marker Park; and 260 linear feet of 6-inch PVC water lines for hydrant leads. See Figure 2 for locations of water line replacements.

The route of water line replacements has been designed to loop this portion of the water system, providing better water quality. Work will also include installation of main line valves, 84 service taps with service lateral replacements to the curb stop, fire hydrants, valves, fittings, and other associated appurtenances. If encountered, lead service lines will be replaced if permitted by the property owner. Paved surfaces, lawns and lawn strips, and other surfaces disturbed during construction will be restored following project completion. The contractor will be responsible for implementing standard construction best management practices for the control of traffic, dust, noise, erosion and sediment, and like factors throughout the duration of construction. This includes the requirement that the contractor provide notice to owners and tenants of properties adjacent to the work area at least two working days prior to the commencement of work and possible disruptions to property access and water service.

Implementation

Woodville proposes to borrow \$730,000 from the Ohio WSRLA at the small-community rate of 1.98 percent (interest rates are set monthly and may change for the requested May loan award) to cover a portion of the total project cost and the cost of a previous design loan for the project. Woodville is eligible to receive a zero percent loan for the lead service line portion of the project. Borrowing this amount in WSRLA monies could save Woodville roughly \$155,000 over the 20-year loan term compared to the current market rate of 3.73 percent. Woodville also expects to receive additional funding for use towards the project in the amounts of \$412,500 from the Ohio Public Works Commission, \$750,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies from Sandusky County, and \$212,203 in ARPA monies awarded to Woodville.

The debt associated with the project will be recovered from monthly user charges. The water service charges for Woodville are driven by the total indebtedness of the village and annual operation and maintenance costs as opposed to the specific indebtedness of any one particular project. Woodville intends to increase water rates by 5 percent annually for five years beginning in 2024. The average annual water bill based on a monthly usage of 4,000 gallons for residents served by Woodville is \$668. This represents 0.98 percent of the median household income for Woodville, \$68,472, and is higher than the Ohio average annual water bill of \$477.

Construction is expected to begin following loan award and take seven months to complete.

Public Participation

Woodville Village Council holds public meetings twice a month at which the council discusses ongoing water and wastewater projects. These meetings are open to the public to attend, and minutes for these meetings are posted on the village's website. Woodville reports that public participation pertaining to the project began in 2020 during initial planning efforts, and participation has continued as the project progressed through design and is continuing towards construction.

Ohio EPA is unaware of significant controversy about or opposition to the project. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on the following webpage and will provide it upon request:

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements>.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within a drinking water system, which involves the replacement of water lines. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will have no effect on high-value environmental resources, and will require no specific impact mitigation. Water line replacements and associated work will primarily take place in public rights-of-way within paved roads, lawn strips, and sidewalks, and will include some work within front lawns and along the asphalt path in Trail Marker Park. Areas of construction contain no unique, sensitive, or valuable environmental resources; however, due to the locations of water line replacements, there is the potential that street and landscape trees could be encountered that necessitate removal.

The project is within the range of several state and federally listed threatened and endangered bat species (Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, and little brown bat). During summer months these species roost in trees with loose and exfoliating bark, crevices and cavities, and within leaf clusters. To protect these species, the contractor will be required to conduct tree removal between October 1 and March 31, as recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No short-term or long-term adverse impacts to environmental resources or the human environment are anticipated due to the locations and general nature of work to be done, as well as protection measures to be implemented.

Is cost effective. Woodville determined that replacement of the deteriorated water lines with larger sized lines and looping of this portion of their system is the only viable alternative to improve system reliability, provide sufficient fire flows, and improve water quality.

Is not a controversial action. The nature of the project is such that there will be no significant adverse impacts to residents or the environment, and no opposition to the project has been reported.

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 substantially increase the volume of discharge or 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 project merely involves the replacement of water lines that serve existing customers and will otherwise have no effect on Woodville's PWS (e.g., source, withdrawal, treatment, storage, distribution, usage).

To conclude, Woodville's proposed project is sufficiently limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria to warrant an LER. The planning review of the project identified no potentially short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment and on sensitive environmental resources (surface waters, coastal zones, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic and recreational rivers, prime and unique agriculture zones, aquifer recharge zones, archaeological and historically significant sites, threatened and endangered species, and state and federal wildlife areas).

Rather, Woodville's replacement of insufficient, deteriorated water lines will have immediate and long-term benefits associated with the provision of safe and adequate water supply to support the demands of their customers.

Contact Information

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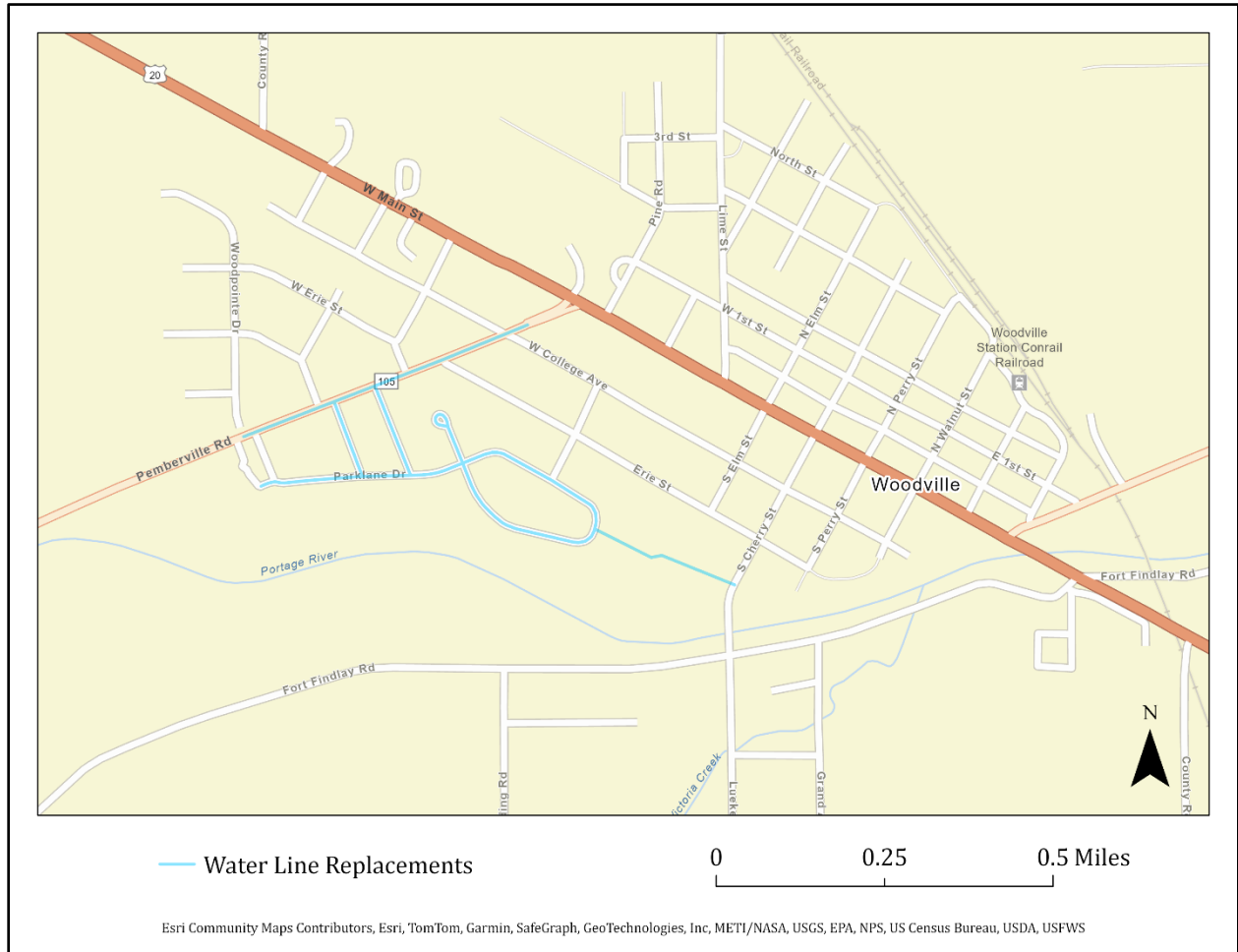


Figure 2. Locations of water line replacements.