



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Anne M. Vogel, Director

July 10, 2023

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Columbus – Franklin County
Near North & East – Iuka Park, Phase 2
Loan number: CS390274-0367**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sanitary sewer rehabilitation project in Columbus which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) 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 WPCLF 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: Near North and East – Iuka Park, Phase 2

Applicant: City of Columbus
910 Dublin Road
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Loan Number: CS390274-0367

Project Summary

The City of Columbus in Franklin County has requested \$6,469,495 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to rehabilitate large-diameter sewers in the Near North and East project areas in need of repairs. This project will occur within existing roadways and city rights-of-way and no significant adverse environmental impacts are expected.

History & Existing Conditions

In 2006, the City of Columbus performed a Large Diameter Pipe Condition Assessment and Cleaning Prioritization study. This focused on assessing the current state of all sewers with diameters 36 inches or larger and established a preventative sewer maintenance program. For this review, the project area is located immediately north and east of downtown Columbus, in two areas designated as “Near North” and “East.”

A condition assessment of the pipeline, manholes, and structures was performed in the Near North and East areas to determine the debris accumulation and structural integrity of the pipes. Land use in the area is generally a mix of residential and commercial along with several greenspace park areas and The Ohio State University campus. The majority of the project area was developed over a century ago and much of the infrastructure dates back to that time. This area is comprised of combined sewers with diameters ranging from 36 inches to 108 inches. More than 60% of the project sewers are brick and about a third are reinforced concrete pipe or cast-in-place concrete with the flow channel lined with brick or clay tile.

A strategic list of prioritized sanitary system defects in need of rehabilitation was developed and the high-priority sewer segments were then divided into four construction phases to fully address the segments with high structural concerns. These phases were organized according to their geographic location, priority level, preliminary opinion of probable construction cost, diameter size, and the preferred rehabilitation method.

The Iuka Park Sewer Rehabilitation, or Phase 2 of the project, is near Iuka Park, just east of OSU campus.

Project Description

The structural defects within the pipeline system will be addressed as part of this project using

selected rehabilitation methods. This will fix operations and maintenance issues found during investigations such as infiltration, deposits or debris, and also minor structural issues such as missing brick and missing mortar. The rehabilitation is required to restore the hydraulic capacity of existing infrastructure and to rehabilitate it, so to extend its useful life another 50 years.

The project will perform rehabilitation of the city's sewers in the Near North Columbus – Iuka Park area. The work will consist of rehabilitating the existing manholes and sewers with a diameter equal to or greater than the existing 36-inch sewers that are in poor condition. Preferred trenchless rehabilitation methods were evaluated for appropriateness according to individual characteristics of each sewer segment, its current condition, and its geographic location.

Iuka Park Sewer Rehabilitation, or Phase 2 consists of rehabilitation of 5,550 linear feet of sewer, most of which is 36 inches or 48 inches in diameter, including approximately 450 linear feet of 54-inch diameter pipe and 700 linear feet of 24-inch diameter pipe. The installation of a new manhole is included in the design to provide access at the transition from the 48-inch sewer to the 54-inch sewer. This phase also includes a total of eight spot repairs. An additional seven manholes are included in this phase for cementitious rehabilitation, spot repair, or reconstruction to grade. In addition to sewer rehabilitation work, manhole rehabilitation work is recommended to be included within each phase according to geographic location.

Project construction will occur within existing rights-of-way alongside roadways and existing utilities. The contractor will be responsible for dust control and control of erosion and sedimentation during construction. Tree clearing is expected to occur within seasonal timeframes to prevent impacts to endangered bat species.

Maps of the project location are provided in the exhibits below.

Implementation

Project Costs

Columbus plans to borrow \$6,469,495 from the WPCLF. During the 20-year loan period Columbus will save \$999,188 by using WPCLF dollars at the standard rate of 2.62%, compared to the market rate of 3.87%. Interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award.

Local Economy

The current Columbus residential sewer bill is approximately \$666 per year. Projected residential sewer bills with the implementation of this project and other associated sewer projects are expected to increase to approximately \$777 per year, or around 1.4% of median household income (MHI) of Columbus, which is \$54,902.

By using WPCLF financing for this project, Columbus has minimized the economic impact on customers.

Project Schedule

The anticipated loan award will occur in July 2023. Construction is expected to begin shortly after loan award and be completed within a year.

Public Participation

A public notice is posted on the City of Columbus' Public Utilities webpage detailing the proposed construction project. Each impacted resident will receive written notifications from the city's contractor prior to the rehabilitation work. The notifications will give information on timing of the work and contact information to receive public questions and concerns.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements> and will provide it upon request to interested parties. Information supporting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) is available from the project contact named below.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection system, which involves functional replacement of the existing system. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Has no significant environmental effect, no effect on high-value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation.

Construction for the project is limited to the previously disturbed footprint of the existing sanitary sewer system within roadways and public rights-of-way containing existing utilities, which lack important environmental features. Standard construction best management practices during construction will be required to control dust, sediment runoff, noise, and maintain safety.

Is cost effective and not controversial.

The proposed project is cost effective as there is no alternative to such sanitary sewer system rehabilitation to improve the overall wastewater treatment system process. Ohio EPA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project.

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.

The project involves the replacement of existing sewer lines within the city's wastewater collection system. The project will not increase wastewater discharges, nor provide capacity to serve a greater population. There will be no change in pollutant loading.

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. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources such as surface waters, coastal zones, riparian areas, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species.

This project will improve the city's sanitary sewer collection system.

Contact Information

Kristin Parrish
Ohio EPA-DEFA
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Email: kristin.parrish@epa.ohio.gov

Exhibit 1: Project location map

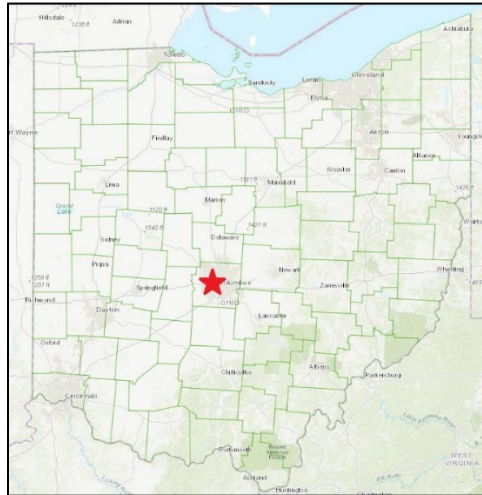
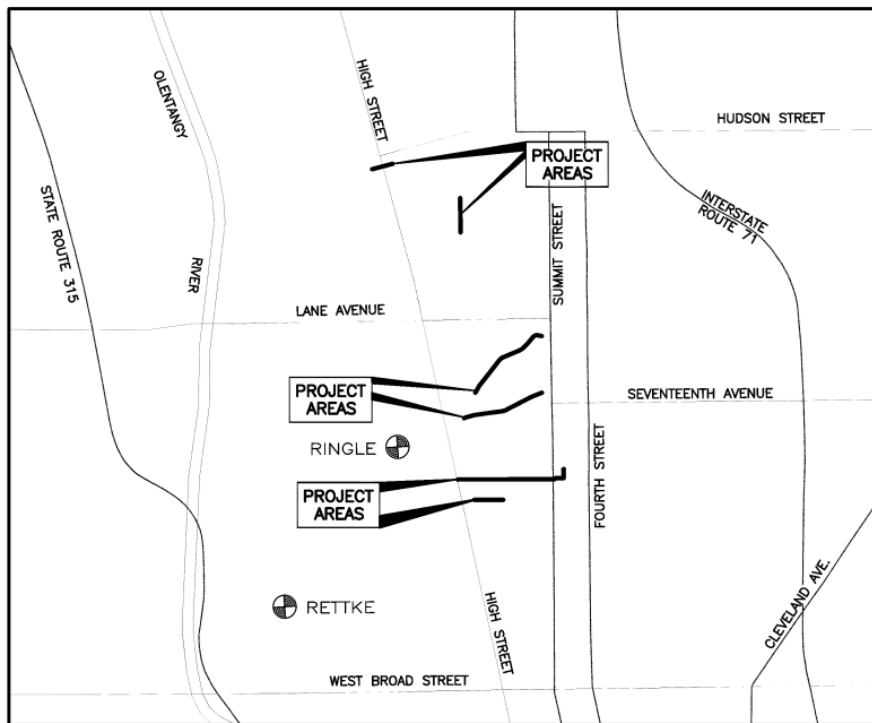


Exhibit 2: Project location map



VICINITY MAP
SCALE 1" = 2000'