

November 17, 2025

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Columbus – Franklin County
Atlanta Drive Area Water Line Improvements
Loan number: FS390274-0445**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water line rehabilitation project in Columbus which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the 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 program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final 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,



Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Atlanta Drive Area Water Line Improvements

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

Loan Number: FS390274-0445



Figure 1. Franklin County

Project Summary

The City of Columbus in Franklin County (Figure 1) has requested funding from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for general rehabilitation of the water distribution system in the Atlanta Drive area which includes construction of new water mains, abandoning existing water mains, and transferring water service lines. The project is necessary to replace water mains that require regular maintenance.

History & Existing Conditions

Columbus operates an extensive water treatment and distribution system that serves the city and most of Franklin County, delivering 50 billion gallons of water per year to its service area. For this project, raw water is sourced from the Scioto River, treated at the Dublin Road Water Treatment Plant, and transported through existing water lines to provide water service to the area near Atlanta Drive and Binns Boulevard.

This project area has water lines that are deteriorated and in need of replacement to reduce regular repairs. If not addressed, the flow and water quality of the lines will decrease. Water line breaks will continue and require more costly maintenance.

Project Description

This project will involve the replacement of the water lines with a high-break frequency in the Atlanta Drive community area to provide a longer service life.

Approximately 10,600 linear feet of 6-inch and 8-inch water lines will be installed, allowing for existing water lines to be abandoned at each project's completion. Existing water service lines will be transferred to the new water line. Replacement of these water lines will improve water service and reduce water loss. The new ductile iron pipe in the replacement water lines will have an estimated service life of 100 years and will significantly reduce the regular maintenance required by the existing

main. New fire hydrants, valves, and copper water taps will also be installed.

The construction footprint for these projects is in the previously disturbed rights-of-way alongside and within the roadway, thereby minimizing effects on environmental resources. The contractor is responsible for best management practices to control dust, erosion, and sedimentation, and maintain local traffic during construction.

See figures 2 and 3 below for maps of the project location.

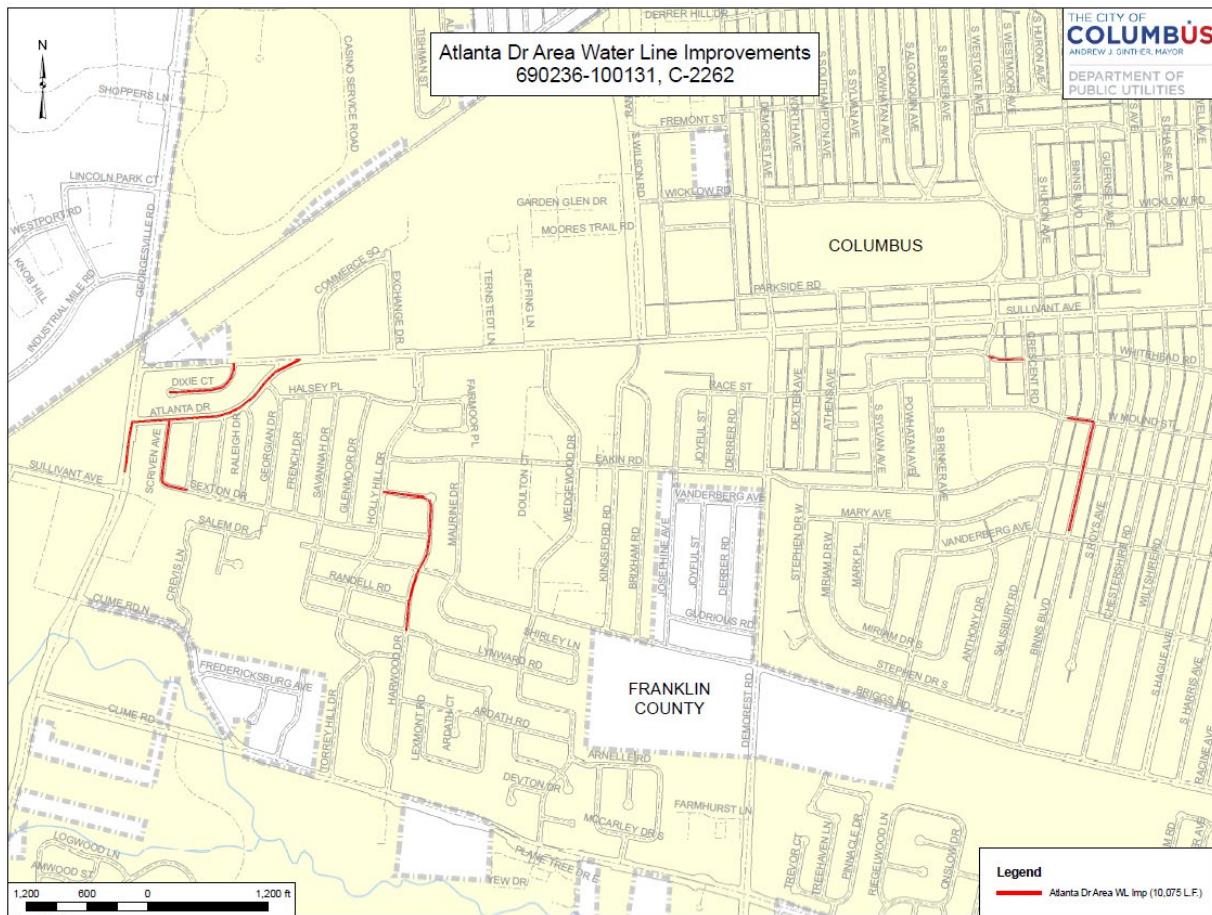


Figure 2. Project location

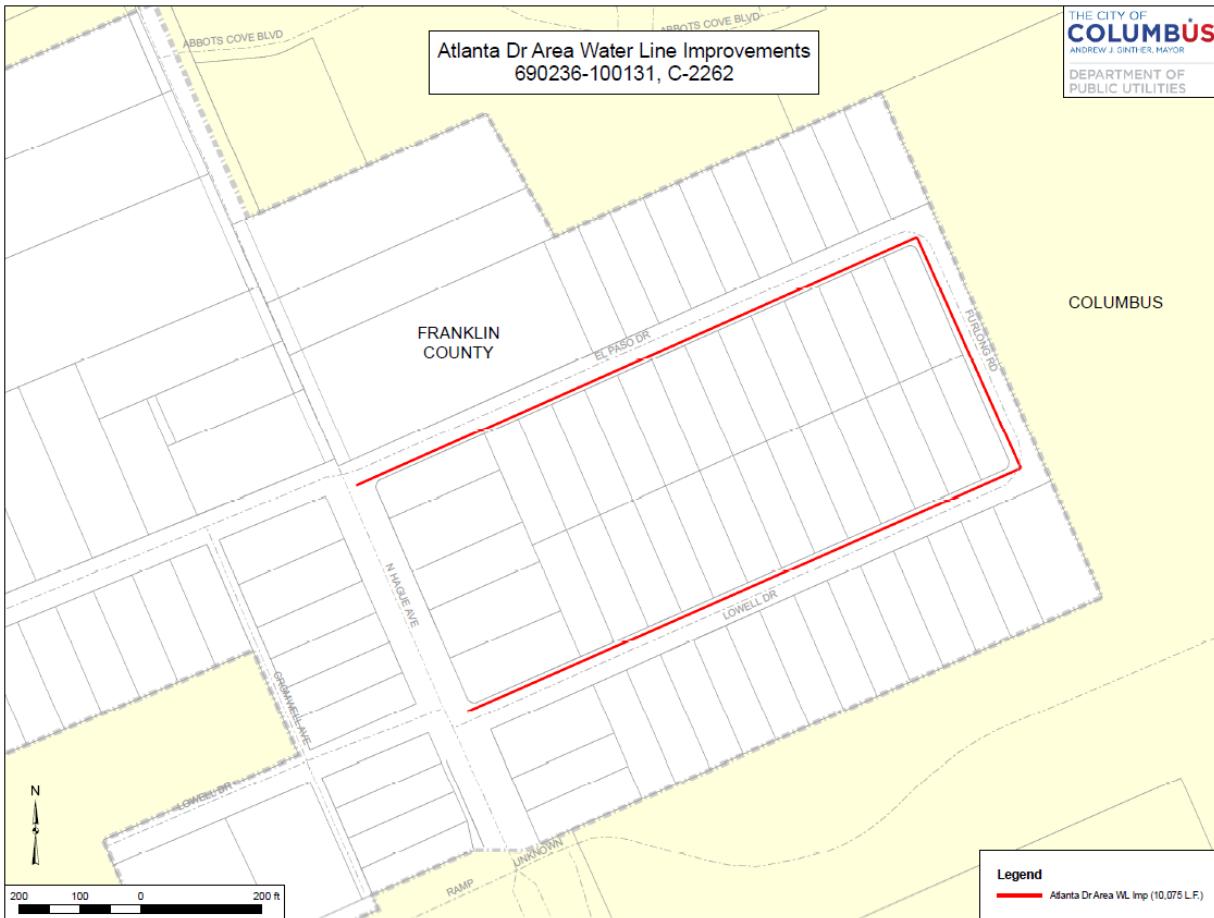


Figure 3. Project location

Implementation

Columbus plans to borrow approximately \$6,900,000 from the WSRLA. During the 20-year loan period Columbus will save approximately \$1,100,000 by using WSRLA dollars at the standard rate of 3.20% compared to the market rate of 4.45%. WSRLA interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. By using WSRLA financing for this project, Columbus has minimized the economic impact on customers.

The current annual Columbus residential water bill is approximately \$612. Projected annual residential water bills with the implementation of this and other associated water infrastructure projects are expected to increase to approximately \$637, or 1% of median household income of Columbus, which is \$62,994.

The anticipated loan award will occur in December 2025, and construction is expected to be completed by July 2027.

Public Participation

A public notice is posted on the City of Columbus' Public Utilities webpage detailing the proposed construction project as well as contact information for public questions and concerns. Notification letters will also be mailed out in advance to residents located near the project area. These letters will provide detailed information regarding the project, temporary water service disruptions, and important contact numbers.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. The Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the LER and FNSI have been provided to the City of Columbus to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public water distribution system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing infrastructure. 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 not require extensive specific impact mitigation.

The project includes replacement water lines within the previously disturbed rights-of-way alongside or within the roadway; therefore, areas lacking important environmental features. No stream crossings or in-wetland work are scheduled to occur, and there will be no construction within prime farmland or within the floodplain. If necessary, tree clearing is to occur within seasonal clearing dates to protect endangered bat species located in the area. The contractor is responsible for dust control, sedimentation and erosion control, and maintenance of traffic during construction.

Is cost effective and not controversial.

The proposed project is the best feasible alternative to address failing water lines; taking no action would allow the flow and water quality of the existing main to decrease and continue to accumulate maintenance costs, which average \$5,000 per break. Ohio EPA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project that will improve the safety and efficiency of a continuous supply of potable water to customers.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, does 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, or 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.

This project involves the replacement of existing water lines which service the area. It does not otherwise alter Columbus's public water system (withdrawal, treatment, distribution, or usage of potable water). There will not be population growth as a result of the water line replacement, so the project will not increase Columbus' present drinking water capacity, nor require an expansion of water service.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated.

This project will help to ensure the safety and efficiency of water distributed to the Columbus area.

Contact Information

Kristin Parrish
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Email: kristin.parrish@epa.ohio.gov
Phone: 614-644-3662