



March 27, 2025

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Columbus - Franklin County
Dublin Road Water Plant Automation/SCADA Upgrades
Loan number: FS390274-0469**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system upgrade at the Dublin Road Water Plant 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,

Steve Malone, for

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Dublin Road Water Plant Automation/SCADA Upgrades

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

Loan Number: FS390274-0469



Figure 1. Franklin County

Project Summary

The City of Columbus in Franklin County (see Figure 1) has requested \$3,800,625 from the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to upgrade hardware and software for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) operating system at the Dublin Road Water Plant (DRWP). Construction will take place within the interior of the existing water treatment plant, thereby limiting potential impacts to environmental features.

History & Existing Conditions

Columbus operates three large municipal water plants: Hap Cremean Water Plant (HCWP), Dublin Road Water Plant (DRWP), and Parsons Avenue Water Plant (PAWP). The three facilities are interconnected by the water distribution system which provides water to 1.4 million customers. The DRWP is a surface water treatment plant that draws water from the Scioto River downstream of the Griggs, O'Shaughnessy, and John Doult reservoirs. The approved capacity of the DRWP is 80 MGD and the annual average distribution system demand is approximately 49 MGD. The DRWP serves approximately 500,000 customers within a service area consisting of downtown Columbus, western, and southwestern Franklin County.

The DRWP treatment process is monitored and controlled using a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system consisting of various computer hardware and software components. Over time, SCADA software suppliers upgrade their products and phase out their support of older versions. Also, the reliability of hardware components decreases with age. The current SCADA system at the DRWP has been in use since 2015 and is in need of an upgrade.

Project Description

This project will upgrade the SCADA system to the current version offered by the supplier in order to maintain reliability, manufacturer support, and spare parts availability. The primary hardware components (computer servers, network switches, workstations) will be replaced to maintain reliability, to stay current with up-to-date product offerings, and to ensure that manufacturer support and parts replacement can be performed.

The work for this project will remain within the confines of the existing water treatment plant facility, therefore minimizing effects on environmental resources. This project will not impact any capacity or the water treatment process.

See Figure 2 below for a map of the project area.

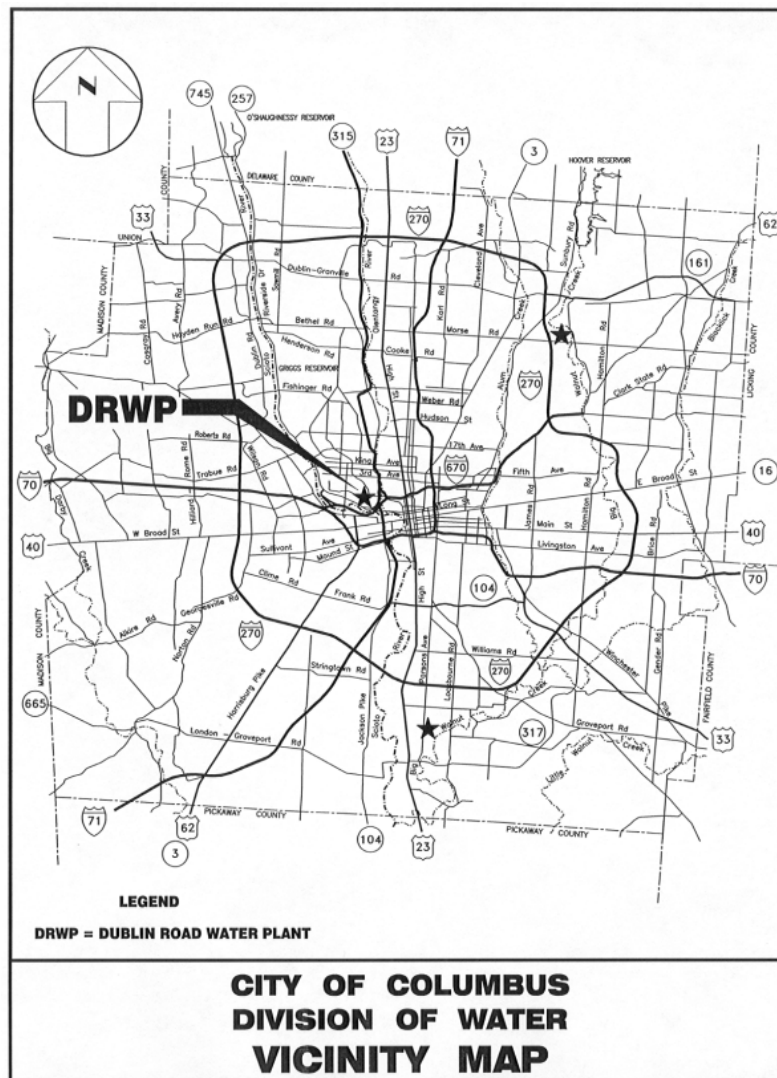


Figure 2. Location of Dublin Road Water Plant

Implementation

Columbus plans to borrow \$3,800,625 from the WSRLA. During the 20-year loan period Columbus will save approximately \$598,474 by using WSRLA dollars at the standard rate of 3.01% compared to the market rate of 4.26%. 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 \$547. Projected annual residential water bills with the implementation of this and other associated water infrastructure

projects are expected to increase to approximately \$647, or 1% of median household income of Columbus, which is \$62,994.

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

Public Participation

This project is included in Columbus' capital improvement plan, which is accessible to the public. Future public participation is expected to be limited as the project involves upgrades to the operating system within the DRWP and will not impact the general public.

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 for the replacement of existing mechanical equipment. 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 interior of the existing Dublin Road Water Plant and will have no environmental impacts.

Is cost effective and not controversial.

The proposed project is cost effective as there is no feasible alternative to necessary software and hardware upgrades. Continuing with the current SCADA software and hardware was not deemed to be a viable alternative because it would reduce the reliability of this critical system. Ohio EPA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project that will provide continued support to the DRWP and allow for the distribution of safe, potable water to Columbus residents.

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.

This project involves equipment upgrades only and does not otherwise alter Columbus' public water system (withdrawal, treatment, distribution, or usage of potable water).

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.

The upgrade of SCADA software and hardware will increase the reliability of the monitoring and control system which is a critical element of the water supply system to maintain the safety of drinking water for Columbus and the central Ohio 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