



Mike DeWine, Governor  
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor  
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

**December 28, 2021**

**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**

**City of Columbus – Franklin County  
Blueprint Linden Artane/Parkwood Lateral Lining  
Loan number: CS390274-0414**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater infrastructure 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,

*Jonathan Bernstein*

Jonathan Bernstein, Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: Blueprint Linden Artane/Parkwood Lateral Lining

Applicant: Columbus Department of Public Utilities  
910 Dublin Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Loan Number: CS390274-0414



**Figure 1. Franklin County**

### **Project Summary**

The City of Columbus, in Franklin County (Figure 1), is requesting a \$4,100,000 low-interest loan from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to line the sanitary service laterals of homes within the North Linden Artane/Parkwood project area to prevent excess storm water from entering the city's sanitary sewer system.

### **History & Existing Conditions**

In 2002 and 2004, the City of Columbus entered into two consent decrees with Ohio EPA to eliminate sewage backups into homes and overflows of untreated sewage into rivers during wet weather events. The city submitted its wet weather management plan (WWMP) to Ohio EPA in 2005 to outline how the city planned to meet the compliance criteria established within their consent decrees. The WWMP contained strategies to address the sewer overflows within their sanitary sewer and combined sewer systems. This plan consisted of building 28 miles of sewer tunnels and upsizing, lining, and replacing pipes. Due to the high cost of the proposed improvements, the city explored other alternatives. In 2013, with Ohio EPA approval, the Columbus Division of Sewerage and Drainage (DOSD) developed Blueprint Columbus as its integrated planning approach to study and incorporate green infrastructure (GI) into the WWMP. Green infrastructure is an approach to water management that mimics the natural water cycle and includes rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavements, and bioretention areas.

Blueprint Columbus consists of 17 study areas, each roughly 1,000 acres in size. Every study area is broken into four to five project areas. Blueprint Linden is one of those 17 study areas and is comprised of four separate and distinct project areas (Hudson/McGuffey, Oakland Park/Medina, Agler/Berrell, and Artane/Parkwood).

Blueprint Linden's study area sanitary and storm water infrastructure is stressed during wet weather events. The challenges associated with the sanitary and storm sewer systems in the Linden area include the project area's eight designed sewer relief (DSR) points over 850 acres, approximately 660 documented water-in-basement (WIB) complaints, inadequate storm sewer conveyance capacity, and sanitary sewer deficiencies within the Linden area. Additionally, extraneous clear water entering sanitary sewers through illicit connections to storm sewers or via leaky manholes (inflow) or through cracks in pipes (infiltration) can overflow sewers and cause overflows.

The Artane/Parkwood area (see Figure 2) is in the southeast region of the Blueprint Linden area. The project area receives storm water from the west (Hudson/McGuffey) and conveys storm water to the north (Agler/Berrell) and to the south (out of the Blueprint Linden area.)

The sanitary sewershed area of the Artane/Parkwood area is approximately 154 acres and consists of 618 addresses. It is primarily residential, with commercial and multi-family residential buildings along Cleveland Avenue and East Hudson Street.

### **Project Description**

The project will entail the installation of 20,576 linear feet (LF) of cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) liner in 486 service laterals for in the North Linden Artane/Parkwood area. All work will be trenchless in road rights-of-way and on residential properties (see Figure 2).

### **Implementation**

The City of Columbus is requesting a \$4,100,000 low-interest loan from the WPCLF. Columbus qualifies for the standard low-interest loan rate of 0.65%. This will save the city \$568,509 for a 20-year loan compared to the market rate, which is currently at 1.90%.

The median household income (MHI) of Columbus is \$51,612. The projected average annual residential sewer bill is \$713/year which is 1.3% of the MHI. This compares favorably to the Ohio average annual residential sewer bill, \$715, which is 1.3% of the state MHI.

Project initiation is expected in March 2022 and the project will be completed by March 2023.

### **Public Participation**

The City of Columbus has made efforts throughout project development to keep the public and key stakeholders informed about the project. This has been accomplished through many means:

- Specific to this project, public meetings, mailers, and website descriptions have been provided to the residents describing the lateral rehabilitation process.
- In-person surveys were administered to residents and business proprietors in the areas.
- Road shows were held at community events, festivals, libraries, and community and civic centers.
- The city developed a video explaining Blueprint Columbus: [www.columbus.gov/blueprint](http://www.columbus.gov/blueprint).
- A community advisory panel was formed to represent a broad spectrum of stakeholders across Columbus. Members advised the city on the development of its plan to address both storm water runoff and sewer overflows.
- Information about this specific project is on the city's webpage at: <https://www.columbus.gov/Templates/Detail.aspx?id=2147494011>

Homeowners will be advised of any water disruption at least two days prior to the disruption.

As part of its State Environmental Review Process, Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) will post this Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact to its web page located at : <https://epa.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/epa/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements>.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection system which involves improvements to storm water infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

**Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources** because work will be in previously disturbed areas in road rights-of-way and in residential areas that have been previously disturbed. No valuable environmental features are present.

**Is cost effective** because repairing existing infrastructure means less maintenance costs to replace cracked sewer lines that allow storm water inflow resulting in basement backups.

**Is not a controversial action** because the city is addressing a problem that results in residential basement sewer backups.

**Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and 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** because this project minimizes storm water entry into the sanitary sewer system and does not otherwise alter the city's sanitary sewage collection, treatment system, or discharges.

**Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population** because this project addresses existing storm water issues in a developed area.

## **Contact information**

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Figure 2. Location of Artane and Parkwood areas within Linden neighborhood