



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
Dublin Road Water Plant Laboratory Upgrades
Loan number: FS390274-0408**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a drinking water laboratory upgrade project in Columbus 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Dublin Road Water Plant Laboratory Upgrades

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

Loan Number: FS390274-0408

Project Summary

The City of Columbus in Franklin County has requested \$1,631,735 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for the construction of upgrades to the Dublin Road Water Plant (DRWP) laboratory including updated ergonomic and safety features. Construction will take place within the interior of the existing water treatment plant, therefore limiting potential impacts to environmental features.

History & Existing Conditions

The DRWP is located at 940 Dublin Road and is currently rated for 80 million gallons per day (MGD) treatment. This conventional surface water treatment plant recently underwent improvements to increase approved capacity and enhance treatment capability by the addition of ozone, biological filtration, and ion exchange.

However, the laboratory space, which was constructed in the mid-1970s, was not upgraded as part of those recent improvements. Upgrades to the lab are necessary to improve workflow/efficiency, address ergonomic needs, better accommodate current equipment, meet data management needs, meet code requirements, and prepare the facility for future analytical testing requirements. The purpose of this project is to renovate the DRWP laboratory to meet current and anticipated needs while also meeting current laboratory design standards.

Project Description

Modifications and renovations to this laboratory space are necessary to keep pace with safety, ergonomic, and environmental requirements to meet current and future process control needs. The project will renovate the space to provide appropriate analytical capabilities for the foreseeable future of testing and treatment requirements. Improvements are needed to cabinetry, countertop space, and storage within the laboratory. Various laboratory layouts have been evaluated to determine the most efficient and best layout to meet DRWP's current and future needs. Evaluations considered capital costs, operational needs, reliability, life cycle costs, and non-cost considerations such as ergonomics and safety.

Columbus concluded that the DRWP laboratory operations should be temporarily relocated to an existing space within the DRWP facility while renovations occur. Renovations to the permanent

laboratory will increase benchtop space and both upper and lower cabinet storage space. Lighting, power, and workstations will be improved with minimal impacts to the existing HVAC system. The laboratory will be designed to meet all current and future anticipated laboratory standards and building codes.

The construction footprint for this project will remain within the confines of the existing water treatment plant facility, therefore minimizing effects on environmental resources. This project is not anticipated to impact any approved capacity values nor any changes to the water treatment process.

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

Implementation

Project Costs

Columbus plans to borrow \$1,631,735 from the WSRLA. During the 20-year loan period Columbus will save approximately \$273,468 by using WSRLA dollars at the standard rate of 2.50%, compared to the market rate of 3.75%. Interest rates are set monthly and may change for the requested July loan award.

Local Economy

The current annual Columbus residential water bill is approximately \$544. Projected annual residential water bills with the implementation of this and other associated water infrastructure projects are expected to increase to approximately \$596, or 1.1% of median household income (MHI) of Columbus, which is \$54,902.

By using WSRLA 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 to be completed by the end of 2024.

Public Participation

A public notice is posted on the City of Columbus' Public Utilities webpage detailing the proposed construction project. Contact information is provided for any public questions or 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 water treatment system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing mechanical equipment. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have 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.

It is cost effective and not controversial.

The proposed project is cost effective as there is no feasible alternative to the necessary replacement of equipment. Ohio EPA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project that will provide support to DRWP and allow for distribution of safe, potable water to Columbus residents.

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 replacement of water quality laboratory equipment and does not otherwise alter Columbus's public water system (withdrawal, treatment, distribution, or usage of potable water).

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

