



April 2, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Columbus – Franklin County
2025 Annual Lining Contract
Loan number: CS390274-0543**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sewer lining project in Columbus which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) 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: 2025 Annual Lining Contract

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

Loan Number: CS390274-0543



Figure 1. Franklin County

Project Summary

The City of Columbus in Franklin County (Figure 1) has requested \$8.3 million from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for annual rehabilitation of existing sanitary/combined sewers and manholes. Construction will take place within the footprint of the existing sewer lines, therefore limiting potential impacts to environmental features. The project is intended to reduce discharges to the Scioto and Olentangy rivers as part of the city's ongoing efforts.

History & Existing Conditions

Columbus has combined sewers (pipes that in dry weather carry sanitary sewage only, and during wet weather carry sanitary flows combined with storm drainage). When flows rise dramatically during and after rainfall, combined sewer overflows (CSOs) divert untreated sanitary sewage mixed with storm water to area streams. Such discharges pose a threat to human health and the environment. Columbus is under a federal consent decree to reduce CSOs and to maintain annual rehabilitation of combined sewers in poor condition contributing to current CSO conditions.

Inflow and infiltration (I&I) contribute to CSOs in Columbus. Inflow is surface runoff that enters sanitary sewers through directly connected downspouts, area drains, etc. Infiltration is the ground water that seeps into sanitary sewers through cracks, offset joints, and other flaws in the pipe. The sanitary infrastructure within Columbus includes miles of older sewer lines that have outlived their useful service life. These sewers are more prone to leaks and/or failures that may occur unexpectedly.

Sanitary sewers are televised by the Columbus Sewer Maintenance Operation Center to perform I&I studies. While the sewer is being televised, structural issues (cracks, fractures, holes, collapses, etc.) and maintenance issues (roots, inflow, deposits, etc.) are coded and recorded by the Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP). With the aid of a sewer condition assessment tool, the sewers are prioritized to determine which segments will be included in the Annual Lining Contract.

Project Description

The project will rehabilitate existing sanitary/combined sewers utilizing a cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining method and rehabilitate existing sanitary/combined manholes by cementitious lining. The work will include lining 23,500 linear feet of 8-inch to 36-inch diameter sewers and about 70 manholes. Sewers in poor condition will be rehabilitated to correct numerous cracks, fractures, offset joints, and holes that allow for I&I. The project will reduce I&I in Columbus' sanitary/combined sewer systems and reduce CSOs, thereby reducing the biological and toxic pollutants entering the Scioto and Olentangy rivers. Both rivers are currently designated as Warmwater Habitat (WWH) Aquatic Life Use in Ohio Water Quality Standards. Removal of this discharge could contribute to maintaining water quality.

The construction footprint for this project will remain within the confines of the existing sanitary sewer lines, therefore minimizing effects on environmental resources. CIPP lining is a trenchless method which involves inserting a resin-saturated liner into the existing pipe, which is then cured (hardened) to create a new seamless and durable pipe within the existing pipe. The contractor is responsible for best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation and maintain local traffic during construction.

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

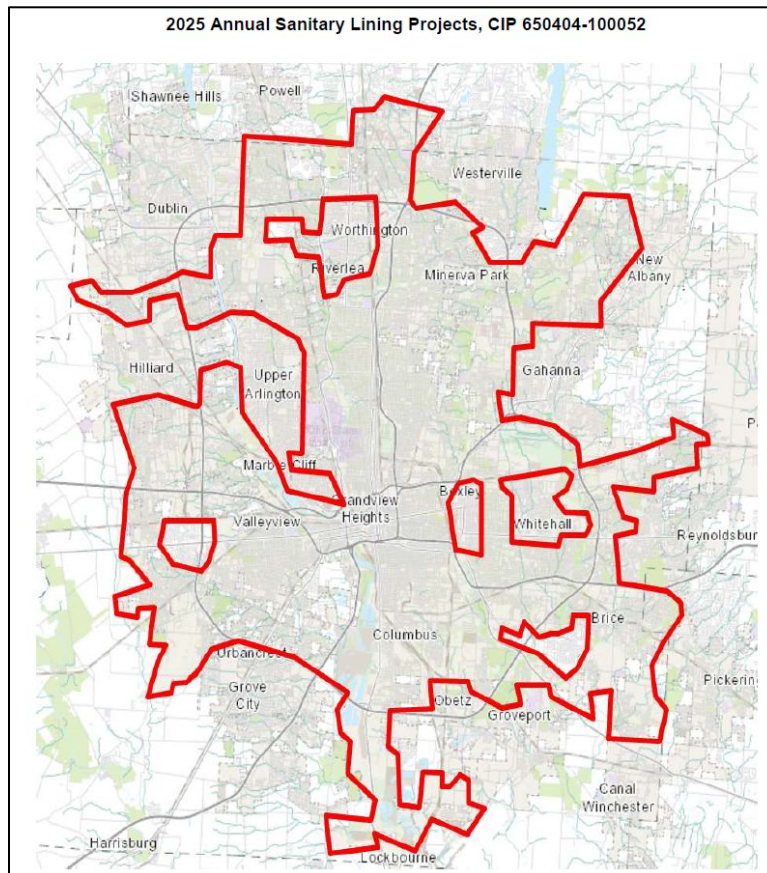


Figure 2. Project location

Implementation

Columbus plans to borrow approximately \$8.3 million from the WPCLF. During the 20-year loan period Columbus could save approximately \$1.3 million by using WPCLF dollars at the standard rate of 3.2% compared to the market rate of 4.45%. WPCLF interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. By using WPCLF financing for this project, Columbus has minimized the economic impact on customers.

The current average annual Columbus residential sewer bill is approximately \$769. Projected annual residential sewer bills with the implementation of this and other associated wastewater infrastructure projects are expected to increase to approximately \$1,016, or 1.6% of median household income for Columbus residents, which is \$62,994.

The anticipated loan award will occur in April 2026, and construction is expected to be completed by July 2028.

Public Participation

A public notice was posted on the City of Columbus' Public Utilities webpage detailing the proposed project and contact information is provided for any public questions or concerns. Area residents will receive a letter and a doorhanger prior to the work being performed. These notifications will give information on the timing for the work, contact information, and a request to restrict water usage for 8-10 hours while the sewer main is being lined. Residents will then receive a final doorhanger indicating the work has been completed and that it's safe to resume water usage.

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 wastewater collection 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:

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 sewer lines and manholes, which lack important environmental features. Standard construction best management practices will be required to control dust, erosion and sediment runoff, noise, and maintain safety.

Is cost effective and not controversial.

Rehabilitating sewers using CIPP lining methods is a cost-effective alternative compared to open-cut sewer replacement and is much less disruptive to residents, motorists, and the environment. Ohio EPA is unaware of any opposition to 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.

This project involves the routine rehabilitation of sewer lines and does not otherwise alter Columbus' sewer system. The project will not impact wastewater discharges, nor provide capacity to serve a greater population. There will be no change in pollutant loading.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to environmental features. 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 provide necessary rehabilitation that will improve the efficiency of the city's sewer system and decrease discharges to the Scioto and Olentangy rivers.

Contact Information

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