



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

January 22, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

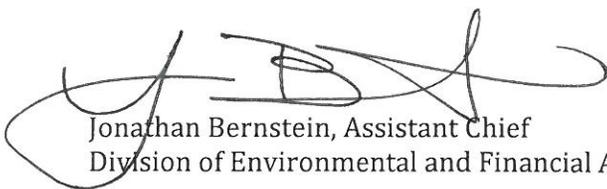
**Village of New Concord – Muskingum County
Backup Power Wastewater Treatment Plant
Loan number: CS390663-0008**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment plant backup power project in the Village of New Concord 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, as described in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-150-05.

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, as described in OAC 3745-150-06. 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, appearing to read "Jonathan Bernstein", is written over a circular stamp or seal. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Village of New Concord – Backup Power Wastewater Treatment Plant

Applicant: Charlotte Colley, Village Administrator
2 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 10
New Concord, OH 43762

Loan Number: CS390663-0008

Project Summary

The Village of New Concord, Muskingum County, has request \$194,890 from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance the purchase of a backup generator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

History & Existing Conditions

New Concord owns and operates a WWTP located in Guernsey County that is designed to treat 448,000 gallons per day (gpd). The WWTP has been in operation since 1942. The treatment process consists of biological treatment, sedimentation, filtration and ultra-violet (UV) disinfection. Effluent from the WWTP is released through a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted outfall into North Crooked Creek. The WWTP's effluent is in compliance with all NPDES permit limits. Currently, there is no source of back-up power to operate the WWTP. In the event of a power outage, the Village would have to release untreated waste. These conditions create the potential for a threat to public health.

Project Description

This project includes installation of a back-up generator with an automatic switch and a concrete pad at the WWTP that can power the entire WWTP in the event of an outage (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 – proposed location of new back-up generator (orange pin) at WWTP



Implementation

This project will cost an estimated \$194,890. New Concord will receive \$50,000 in principal forgiveness and borrow the remaining \$144,890 at the hardship interest rate of 1%. During the 20-year loan period, New Concord will save \$23,406 at this interest rate compared to the market rate of 2.42%.

Based on a February 2020 loan award, this generator and concrete pad are expected to be installed in Spring 2020.

The median household income (MHI) in New Concord is \$42,083. The average annual sewer bill is \$606, which is 1.4% of the MHI and considered affordable.

Public Participation

This project has been discussed at several village council meetings in 2019, which are open to the public.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (<http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> WSR/LA Documents for Review and Comment) and will provide it on request to interested parties.

Conclusion

The entire project area has been previously disturbed during installation of and prior upgrades to the existing WWTP. The project work will occur in a previously disturbed and maintained or mowed area, therefore no sensitive environmental resources, such as streams, wetlands, state or federal threatened or endangered species, or historical properties, will be impacted. No trees will be cleared as part of the plant upgrades. In the event that tree clearing is necessary, it will only be done between October 1 and March 31. Standard construction best management practices will be used to address things like noise, dust, traffic disruption, and storm water runoff. The Village has obtained a floodplain development permit from the local floodplain administrator.

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing wastewater treatment plant, which involves the installation of a back-up generator and concrete pad. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

- **It has no significant environmental effect on high value environmental resources and will require not specific impact mitigation** as sensitive resources such as wetlands, riparian areas, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeological or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species are not present in the project area. New Concord obtained a floodplain development permit from the local floodplain administrator for this project.
- **It is not a controversial action**, as it will have no impact on user rates and there is no known opposition to the project.
- **Is cost-effective**, as it will ensure back-up power is available to operate the WWTP in the event of an outage and the project will receive \$50,000 in principal forgiveness.
- **It does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters; and It 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** since the proposed project will only install a back-up generator and have no impact on the collection system or the treatment plant's capacity.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant adverse impacts. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources (surface waters, coastal zones, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, threatened or endangered species, or state and federal wildlife areas). Implementation of the appropriate construction mitigation measures are required by the contract specifications and construction activity will be limited to the existing WTP. The project will benefit the residents of New Concord by establishing a source of back-up power for operating the WWTP during outages.

Contact information

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