February 12, 2024

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Village of Seville – Medina County
Center Street Water Line Replacement
Loan number: FS390841-0004

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a drinking water project in Seville 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,

Kathleen Courtright

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Center Street Water Line Replacement

Applicant: Village of Seville
120 Royal Crest Drive
Seville, Ohio 44273

Loan Number: FS390841-0004

Figure 1. Medina County

Project Summary

The Village of Seville, in Medina County (Figure 1), has requested $1,317,000 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to finance the Center Street Water Line Replacement project, which involves the replacement of deteriorated water mains in a critical portion of Seville's distribution system. Completion of the project is anticipated to eliminate frequent water main breaks in the project area, resulting in improved system reliability. Due to thoughtful design of the project and proposed protection measures to be implemented, no significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated, as discussed in the conclusion.

History & Existing Conditions

The Seville public water system (PWS) uses ground water as its supply source. An average of 370,000 gallons per day (gpd) of water is pumped through two wells to the Seville water treatment plant (WTP) for treatment. The total combined pumping capacity of the wells is 750,000 gpd, and similarly, the WTP has a total design capacity of 775,000 gpd. Once at the plant, raw water is treated through a process consisting of chlorine disinfection, sand filtration, and water softening. The existing WTP went into operation in 2006. Finished water is distributed to nearly 2,300 individuals within the village through a network of distribution mains, a booster station, and three elevated water storage tanks.

The aging distribution system has increasingly become susceptible to experiencing breaks. One area of great concern is the 70-years-old, 8-inch cast iron water main that runs along Center Street, between Main Street and Greenwich Road. The water main also includes sections of 4-inch through 8-inch cast iron, ductile iron, copper, and high-density polyethylene pipe from previous patchwork repairs. This water main supplies water from the WTP to two of Seville's elevated water storage tanks, is a critical link between two pressure zones, and serves most of the village's customers. Breaks in this section of water main have become more frequent, resulting in emergency repairs, service interruptions, and lost water. Seville seeks to improve reliability of their system and reduce maintenance by replacing this deteriorated stretch of water main.

Project Description

Seville intends to replace the Center Street water main by installing approximately 6,400 linear feet of 12-inch ductile iron pipe (DIP) along the route shown in Figure 2. Construction will include

installation of small quantities of 4-inch through 8-inch DIP to connect the new water main to adjacent mains, 11 fire hydrants, valves, fittings, miscellaneous associated appurtenances, and reconnection of 67 services. The water main route includes crossing of a CSXT railroad and Hubbard Creek. The water main crossing of the railroad will be installed using jack-and-bore, and the crossing of Hubbard Creek will be installed using traditional trenching. Installations elsewhere will also be installed using traditional trenching.

Construction will occur in phases that have been designed to avoid interruptions to water service. Interruptions to service determined necessary will first require approval of Seville, and the contractor will provide a temporary potable water system. Construction phasing will occur as described below:

> Phase 1: Construct all proposed water mains and services beginning at Main Street and extending across Hubbard Creek, CSXT Railroad, and along Spring Street to the intersection of Spring Street and Center Street. Include tie in connections on Water Street.
>
> Phase 2: Construct all proposed water mains and services beginning just north of Lafayette Street and extending north along Center Street to the intersection of Greenwich Road. Include tie in connections on Lafayette Street.
>
> Phase 3: Construct all proposed water mains and services beginning at the intersection of Spring Street and Center Street and extending north along Center Street just north of the intersection with Lafayette Street.

The contractor will be responsible for implementing best management practices to minimize erosion and sediment, noise, dust, traffic disruptions, and like factors throughout the duration of the project.

Implementation

Seville proposes to borrow $1,317,000 from the Ohio WSRLA at the small-community rate of 1.97 percent (interest rates are set monthly and may change for the requested March loan award) to cover the cost of the project. Borrowing this amount in WSRLA monies could save Seville roughly $279,000 over the 20-year loan term compared to the current market rate of 3.72 percent. Seville also expects to receive a grant in the amount of $1 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a $250,000 grant and $250,000 loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission, and a subgrant of $500,000 from Medina County utilizing state and local fiscal recovery funds, for use towards the project.

The debt associated with the project will be recovered from monthly user charges. The water service charges for Seville are driven by the total indebtedness of the village and annual operation and maintenance costs as opposed to the specific indebtedness of any one particular project. Seville most recently increased water rates by 3 percent in 2024 and reports that water rates will increase by 3 percent in 2025 and 2026. The average annual residential water bill for customers served by Seville is $233. This represents 0.38 percent of the median household income for Seville (MHI; $60,592) and compares favorably to the Ohio average annual water bill of $477.

Construction is expected to begin in April 2024 and be completed by November 2024.

Public Participation

Seville Village Council holds regular meetings each month and provides information regarding meeting times and dates, locations, and meeting minutes, on the village website. These meetings are open to the public to attend. The project, including the ordinance authorizing the superintendent of the board of public affairs to apply for, accept, and enter into a WSRLA agreement with Ohio EPA, was discussed at these meetings.

Seville will require the contractor to prepare and supply to the village a public notification of the project schedule indicating a basic work plan and major milestones. Seville will hand-mail copies of the work plan to properties within the project area prior to construction start.

Ohio EPA is unaware of significant controversy about or opposition to the project. Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on the following webpage and will provide it upon request:
https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for a LER; namely, it is an action within an existing PWS, which involves the replacement of water mains. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will have no effect on high-value environmental resources, and will require no specific impact mitigation. The project is within the range of several state and federally listed threatened and endangered bat species (Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, and little brown bat). During summer months these species roost in trees with loose and exfoliating bark, crevices and cavities, and within leaf clusters. Installation of water mains will require the removal of a small number of street trees and some clearing near the Hubbard Creek crossing. Seville will conduct tree removal between October 1 and March 31, as recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to protect these species.

The water main crossing of Hubbard Creek will be installed through traditional trenching. Hubbard Creek is a natural stream that functions as the outfall channel for Hubbard Valley Dam. Work within Hubbard Creek is permitted under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 58. The crossing has been designed to comply with conditions outlined within the nationwide permit and minimize disturbance to the least extent possible. In-water work will be coordinated with Hubbard Valley Park for the control of upstream water to ensure construction of the crossing takes place during low or no-flow conditions. Backwatering from downstream Chippewa Creek will be managed by means of a cofferdam, bypass pumping, or similar means. These measures will greatly reduce the potential movement of sediment without impacting regular flow of Chippewa Creek. Other best management practices to be implemented include but are not limited to proper storage and removal of materials, site stabilization and erosion and sediment control, storm water control, and backfill and restoration of the streambed to preconstruction conditions. Design of the creek crossing has also been completed to limit the duration and physical extent of in-water work to as little as possible.

Other than work adjacent to and including the creek crossing and the railroad crossing, water main installations will take place within paved roads, lawn strips, and sidewalks within road rights-of-way, and minor amounts in front lawns for water service reconnections. These areas contain no unique, sensitive, or otherwise valuable environmental resources.

Additionally, the project underwent review by U.S. EPA as part of the requirements for Seville to receive the grant previously noted. U.S. EPA determined the project includes no actions that will individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment.

In summary, there are no anticipated short-term or long-term adverse impacts to environmental resources or the human environment, based on the locations at which most construction will occur and because adequate protection measures will be implemented throughout the duration of the project.

Is cost effective. Seville determined that complete replacement of water mains is the only viable and cost-effective alternative to correct the deteriorated, patchwork of mains along Center Road. Water main breaks are costly and timely to repair, can lead to the need for boil orders, and cause service disruptions. By replacing these deteriorated sections of their water system, Seville is reducing their long-term costs while improving system reliability and safety.

Is not a controversial action. The nature of the project is such that there will be no significant adverse impacts to residents or the environment, and no opposition to the project has been reported.

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, does not 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. The project merely involves the replacement of water mains that serve existing customers and will have no impact on Seville's PWS (e.g., withdrawal, treatment, storage, distribution, usage).

To conclude, Seville's proposed project is sufficiently limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria to warrant an LER. The planning review of this project identified no potentially short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment and on sensitive resources (surface waters, coastal zones, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic and recreational rivers, prime and unique agriculture lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeological and historically significant sites, threatened and endangered species, and state and federal wildlife areas).

Completion of Seville's proposed project will enable the village to address issues in a critical portion of their PWS, improving system reliability and public safety.

Contact Information

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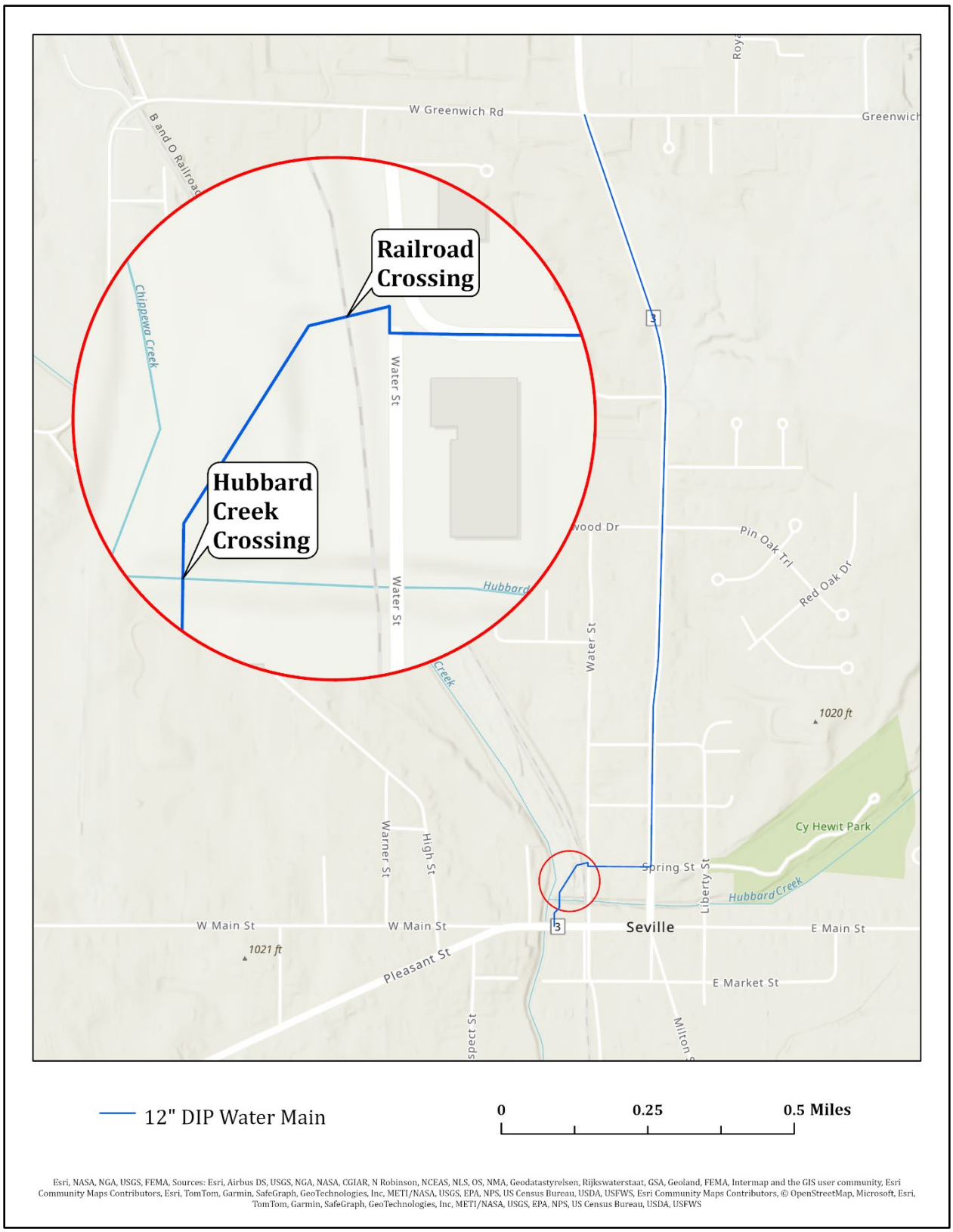

Figure 2. Project Location Map