April 28, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Village of Attica – Seneca County
Regionalization Water Line with Northern Ohio Rural Water
Loan number: FS390125-0004

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a drinking water regionalization project in Attica which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) 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,

Kathleen Courtright

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
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LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Regionalization Water Line with Northern Ohio Rural Water

Applicant: Village of Attica
PO Box 564
Attica, Ohio 44807

Loan Number: FS390125-0004

Figure 1. Seneca County

Project Summary

The Village of Attica, in Seneca County (Figure 1), has requested approximately $1.76 million from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to help finance the Regionalization Water Line with Northern Ohio Rural Water project.

This project is eligible for a portion of the loan as WSRLA principal forgiveness (up to $800,000), which will not need to be repaid. Due to the nature and location of construction, as well as proposed protection measures to be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, as discussed in the conclusion.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Attica water treatment plant (WTP), completed in 2007, has an average daily design flow of 0.504 million gallons per day (MGD). The current average daily flow is 0.110 MGD and the system services 472 residential customers and 46 commercial customers. The village's water supply is Honey Creek, located south of the WTP. Water is pumped into one of the two existing reservoirs. Reservoir #1 holds approximately 15 million gallons and Reservoir #2 holds approximately 49.6 million gallons. The water tower for the village is a composite storage tank with a volume of 250,000 gallons.

The Village of Attica distribution system consists of approximately 69,300 feet of water line conduit. The service area for the water system includes the incorporated areas of the village, Seneca East School, and the unincorporated communities of Siam and Caroline.

The village has experienced staffing shortages and increasing costs at the WTP. In 2022 the village began discussions with the City of Willard to purchase water. Initial discussions stalled when Willard was unable to provide a consistent bulk water rate. Additionally, the connection to the City of Willard would require the village to install, operate, and maintain approximately six miles of water line and a booster pump station.

Northern Ohio Rural Water (NORW) reached out with a proposition to supply bulk water. After discussion with NORW, it was determined that NORW could supply the village with an adequate water capacity. The primary benefit of the NORW regionalization option is the reduced water line necessary since the NORW connection is only two miles from Attica corporation limits. Additionally, NORW is willing to enter into a long-term operation and management (O&M) agreement for the two miles of water line.

Project Description

The proposed project includes the installation of approximately 12,900 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch water transmission line and approximately 2,000 LF of 6-inch water distribution water main. This will connect the water transmission line to the existing 10-inch main feed line to the Attica water tower.

NORW will supply drinking water to Attica at a rate of 150 gallons per minute (GPM) with sufficient pressure to fill the existing water tower in Attica without additional booster pumps. A chemical feed building will be installed at the Attica corporation limits which will house the master meter, backflow preventer, and any chemical feeds that are required based on the corrosion control study that will be required as a part of this regionalization project. The study will focus on ensuring safe drinking water for the village during the transition to NORW. Additionally, the corrosion control plan will evaluate the options of decreasing the quantity of chemicals that must be fed into the Attica system. The existing WTP will also be decommissioned after the project is complete.

See Figure 2 for a map of project area.

Implementation

The total cost for the project is $2,550,442. Attica is eligible to receive $800,000 of their WSRLA loan associated with regionalization in the form of principal forgiveness, with the remainder as a 0% loan. With this favorable financing, Attica will save $2,405,214 compared to financing the entire loan amount at the market rate, 4.86% for a 30-year loan period. Attica has also received an $800,000 grant from H2Ohio for this project.

The debt associated with this construction project will be recovered from user charges. On March 18, 2024, the village council passed water rate increases of 20% effective immediately and a 3% annual increase effective on January 1, 2025. The average annual water bill for Attica residents in 2027 will be $1,120.25 ($93.35 monthly). This is 1.6% of the median household income (MHI) for Attica (MHI; $70,000) and is greater than the Ohio average bill of $528.

Construction is expected to begin after loan award and will be completed within one year.

Public Participation

This project has been the subject of nearly all council and public meetings since 2022. The village council discussed the challenges with continuing operation of the WTP and all discussions with the City of Willard. Attica also had a town hall meeting on February 28, 2024 to discuss the regionalization plans and the emergency 20% water rate increase that was put in place to avoid fiscal problems. The plan for regionalization has been well received within the village.

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 Village of Attica 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 water distribution system, which involves regionalization. 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. Construction will take place primarily within the roadway right-of-way, sidewalks, lawn strips, and front yards where there are no unique, sensitive, or valuable environmental resources. Attica has agreed to follow the standard tree clearing dates of October 1st to March 31st to protect listed endangered and threatened bat species if any tree clearing is necessary. Standard construction best management practices will minimize noise, dust, erosion, sediment, and traffic disruptions. Temporary water service interruptions will be communicated to affected customers.

Is cost effective and is not a controversial action. The Village of Attica considered regionalizing with two different communities and opted for the best feasible alternative to eliminate the need to operate their aging WTP. Attica reports that the project has been well received by 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, 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. The project does not impact withdrawals or discharges as the Attica WTP will be eliminated and residents will receive water from NORW upon project completion. The project serves an existing population.

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. Completion of the project will have long-term benefits associated with the provision of safe and reliable water service to support the needs of the newly regionalized customers and allow for elimination of an aging WTP.

Contact Information

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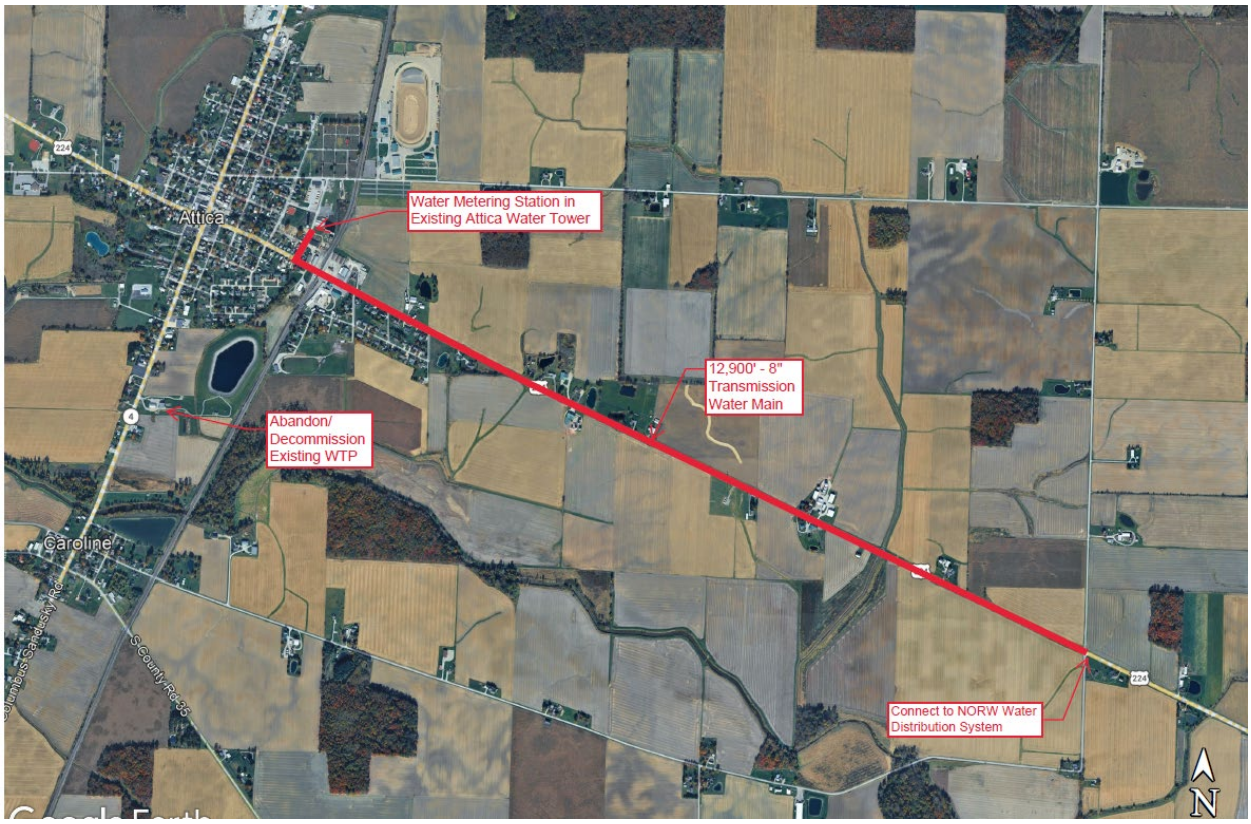

Figure 2. Proposed regionalization water line