



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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February 9, 2010

Notice of Issuance of a Limited Environmental Review and Final
Finding of No Significant Impact to All Interested Citizens,
Organizations, and Government Agencies

Mahoning Valley Sanitary District
Sludge Operations and Solids Handling Building No. 23

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the referenced project and finds that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor a Supplemental Study (SS) is required to complete the environmental review of the project. Instead, the proposed project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER). These criteria are summarized below in this document and in the attached LER.

The proposed project involves an action within an existing public water system which is for minor upgrading of an existing treatment works. More specifically, the proposed action includes the replacement of two (2) sludge pumps with variable frequency drives, the sludge pump motor control panels, reconfiguration of the electrical service, thirty (30) backwash valves, backwash pump parts, and miscellaneous and contingency materials associated with the plant's sludge and backwash operations.

The LER was completed for this proposed project as it will not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local, or private actions have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment. Consequently, a Finding of No Significant Impact can be issued now for this proposed project.

The Appalachian Regional Commission program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process for project approval. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed action in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the project planning process. A subsequent review by this Agency has found that the proposed action does not require the preparation of an EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed project is limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria, a LER is warranted. Specifically, the proposed project constitutes an action in a community with an existing public water system where minor upgrades and/or minor expansion of existing water treatment and distribution systems including, but not limited to, functional replacement of existing mechanical equipment or

Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

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facilities are proposed.

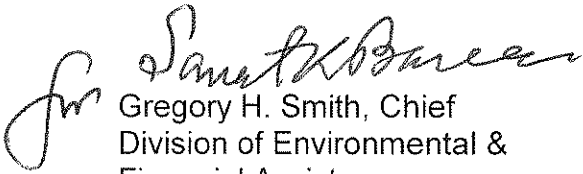
Furthermore, the proposed project:

- * will have no significant environmental effect;
- * does not require extensive specific impact mitigation;
- * will have no effect on high value environmental resources;
- * is cost-effective;
- * is not a controversial action;
- * does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge of wastewater 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;
- * 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.

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is included as part of the LER. The LER presents information on the proposed project, its costs, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person listed on the back of the LER.

Upon issuance of this determination, loan award may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions for the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,


Gregory H. Smith, Chief
Division of Environmental &
Financial Assistance

GHS/TW
Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Project Identification

Name: Mahoning Valley Sanitary District Sludge Operations and Solids Handling Building No. 23 Improvement Project

Address: Mr. Thomas F. Holloway, P.E. Chief Engineer
Mahoning Valley Sanitary District
P.O. Box 4119
Youngstown, Ohio 44515-0119

B. Summary/Existing Need

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (MVSD) proposes to make improvements to its Water Purification and Pumping Works, located at 1181 Ohiotown-McDonald Road in Mineral Ridge, Trumbull County, OH (see Figure 1 for project location). The total cost for this project is estimated to be approximately \$741,000, of which a \$550,000 grant is expected from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), a \$100,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and the remaining \$91,000 will be from the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District's enterprise fund. This Limited Environmental Review (LER) document is being prepared by the Ohio EPA to fulfill the ARC requirements for funding.

The MVSD was established in 1926 to supply domestic water to its member cities of Youngstown, Niles, and McDonald. These cities in turn supply bulk water to the municipalities of Girard, Canfield, Lordstown, Craig Beach, and portions of 11 townships in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties. Construction of the Water Purification and Pumping Works and its distribution system began in 1928 and was completed in 1932.

The Water Purification and Pumping Works treats water drawn from Meander Creek Reservoir, an impoundment of Meander Creek in the upper Mahoning River watershed, by lime softening, disinfection, fluoridation, taste and odor control, mixing, settling, filtration and pumping. It is rated at 60 million gallons per day (MGD) but currently treats approximately 26 MGD. MVSD provides water service to numerous commercial and industrial businesses along with an estimated population of 220,000.

For the past several years the MVSD has been experiencing operation and maintenance problems with its progressive cavity sludge equipment, valves, electrical service, and controls in the Solids Handling Building No. 23 resulting in unacceptable health hazard related to precursor particles from water treatment. This sludge equipment is utilized to pump sludge from the water treatment plant's six (6) settling basins to four 7 acre waste lagoons. Due to the coarseness and viscosity of the lime sludge being pumped, the District has to frequently rebuild and replace various pump parts. Each year the District spends \$20,000 to \$30,000 on maintenance of these pumps and valves. Therefore, the District has looked at several alternatives and has chosen a different type of progressive cavity pump to correct these deficiencies.

MVSD is requesting construction funding for the improvements to their Water Purification and Pumping Works. These improvements will help improve water quality and reduce operation and maintenance costs through the installation of more efficient and effective equipment.

C. Project Description

The proposed project will not increase the capacity of MVSD's Water Purification and Pumping Works. However, the proposed improvements will provide for the labor and replacement of two (2) sludge pumps with variable frequency drives (VFD), the sludge pump motor control panels, reconfiguration of the electrical service, thirty (30) backwash valves, backwash pump parts, and miscellaneous and contingency materials associated with the plant's sludge and backwash operations.

D. Estimated Project Cost

The total cost for this project is estimated to be approximately \$741,000, of which a \$550,000 grant is expected from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), a \$100,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and the remaining \$91,000 will be from the Mahoning Valley Sanitary Districts enterprise fund. MVSD is a regional water treatment provider and sells bulk water to the cities of Youngstown, Niles, and McDonald who further distributes water to portions of Trumbull and Mahoning Counties. The average monthly water rates for Youngstown residents based on 5,000 gallons per month is \$23.01, Niles monthly rates for 5,000 gallons per month is \$16.20, and McDonald is \$17.25 for 5,000 gallons per month. The MVSD plans no additional increases as a result of the project to the regional users.

E. Project Schedule

Advertise for Bids	November 27, 2009, December 4, 11, 18, and 21, 2009
Opening of Bids	December 22, 2009
Notice to Proceed	February 2010
Initiation of Construction	May 2010
Estimated Completion	October 2010

F. Public Participation

This proposed project was discussed at several MVSD Board meetings where the problems and solutions were addressed. All MVSD Meetings are open to the public and welcome public input. In addition, the proposed project was advertised in the Youngstown Vindicator Newspaper five times to comply with MVSD requirements and is on the MVSD web site.

Ohio EPA will issue a copy of its Limited Environmental Review (LER) decision and Finding of No Significant Impact to interested parties. Supporting documentation for the LER decision is available for public inspection upon request at the following address:

Mahoning Valley Sanitary District
P.O. Box 4119
Youngstown, Ohio 44515-0119

G. Planning Review

The proposed project has been reviewed by the following agencies, and their findings support the Limited Environmental Review of this project:

- * Ohio EPA - Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
- * Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

H. Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, "Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations," requires proposed federal actions to identify, address and avoid disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low income populations. The purpose of the proposed project will improve operations relative to removal of suspended particles from water being

treated for consumption and sanitary use. No particular segment of the community will be faced with additional adverse impacts, or be deprived of environmental benefits, compared to any other segment. Therefore, based upon the scope of the project, no significant adverse impacts with respect to minority or low income populations will occur as a result of the project.

I. Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review; namely, it is an action for relatively minor upgrading of existing treatment works (i.e., replacement of electric sludge pumps and related appurtenances). Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for a LER; specifically, the proposed project:

- will have *no adverse environmental effect* and will require *no specific impact mitigation*, because the replacement of the existing sludge pumps and related appurtenances requires no excavation or other site disturbance. And, because there is no construction or excavation involved, dust, odors, and the disruption of traffic patterns will not be a problem.
- will have *no adverse effect on environmental resources*, because it will not involve any action outside the existing buildings and distribution system components, where such resources might be present.
- is *clearly cost-effective*, as replacing the existing sludge pumps and related appurtenances with new, redesigned pumps and related appurtenances will save on maintenances costs as well as provides for safer drinking water.
- is *not controversial*, as no rate increase is expected to be necessary to pay for this project, and Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to it.
- will *not result in any increase in the volume of water treated on a daily basis; or provide additional drinking water distribution lines to the service area*, as it only involves replacement of sludge pumps and related appurtenances.

The proposed project is sufficiently limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria to warrant an LER. The planning activities have identified no potentially significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts on the human environment or sensitive resources, including land forms, floodplains, ground water, culturally significant sites, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, surface water, air quality, or state and federal natural areas, nor will it have secondary impacts (those related to new development served by a publicly-owned treatment works improvement), such as the conversion of farmland to more intensive (i.e.,

residential/commercial) uses.

The proposed project will benefit the regional water users by helping to maintain and provide for safer drinking water at a reduced operating cost.

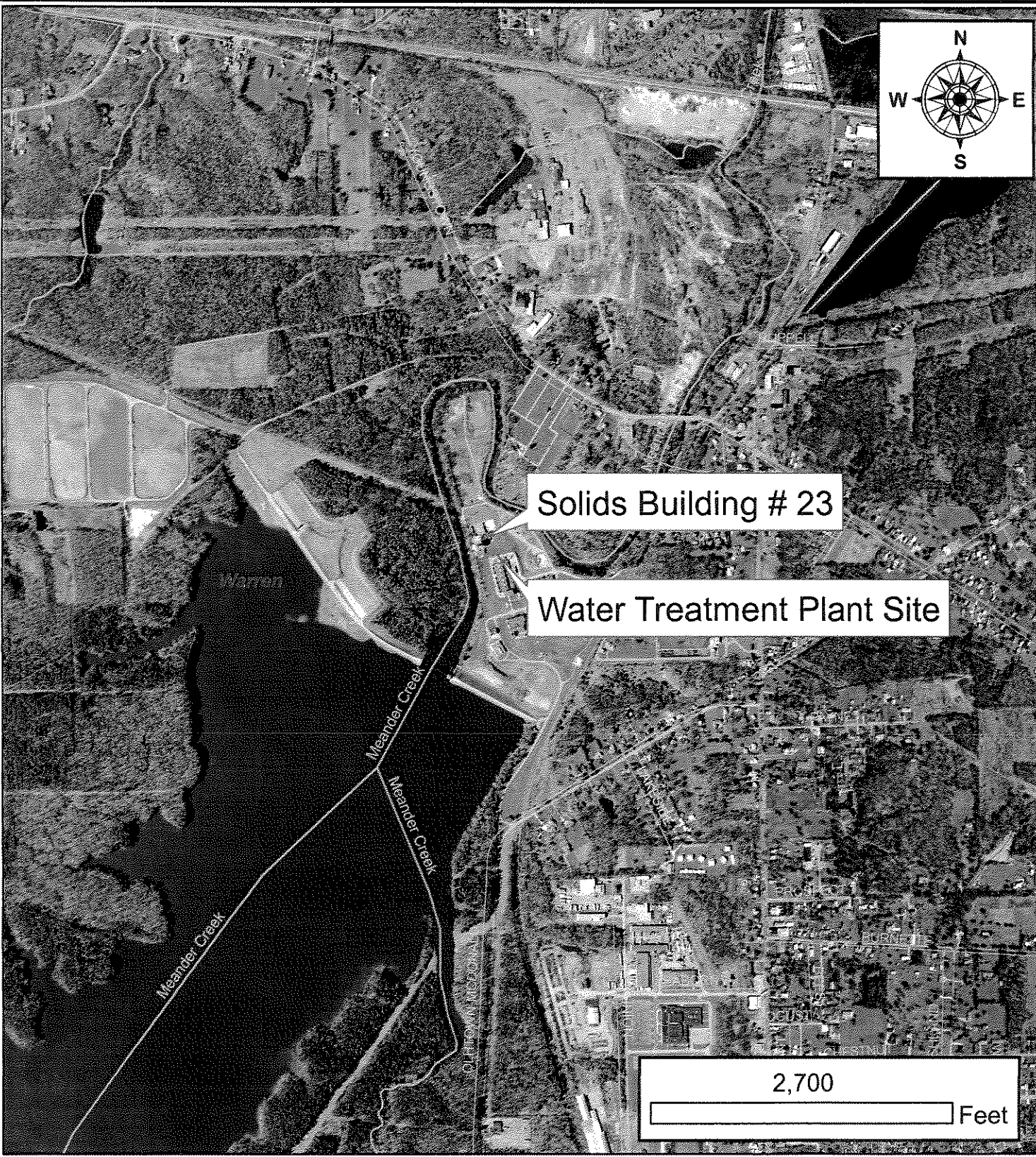
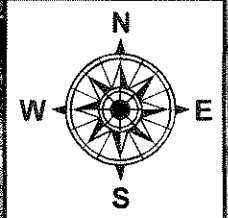
J. For further information, please contact:

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Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

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Solids Building # 23

Water Treatment Plant Site

2,700
Feet

OhioEPA

Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance