Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Anne M. Vogel, Director

May 30, 2023

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Village of Pemberville – Wood County
Main Pump Station Backup Power Improvements
Loan number: CS390744-0010

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater project in Pemberville 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.

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. 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: Main Pump Station Backup Power Improvements

Applicant: Village of Pemberville
115 Main Street
P.O. Box 109
Pemberville, Ohio 43450

Loan Number: CS390744-0010

Figure 1. Wood County

Project Summary

The Village of Pemberville, in Wood County (Figure 1), has requested $100,000 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance the Main Pump Station Backup Power Improvements project. This project involves the installation of a backup generator at the location of Pemberville's main sewage pump station. Pemberville intends to improve system resiliency and reliability in the event of a power outage through completion of this project.

History & Existing Conditions

Pemberville's original wastewater collection and treatment system was constructed in the 1970s and consisted of a partially combined sewer system and a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). In the 1990s, Pemberville separated the portions of their sanitary sewer system that were combined, leading to a fully separated sanitary sewer system; however, Pemberville still experienced sanitary sewer overflow events during high wet weather flows following separation of their combined portions of the sewer system. In 2011, Pemberville constructed a new WWTP and upgraded their main sewage pump station (Figure 2) to provide adequate capacity to handle wet weather flows. Pemberville's WWTP has a rated treatment capacity of 0.40 mgd, a peak dry weather flow capacity of 1.00 mgd, and a peak wet weather flow capacity of 1.33 mgd. In addition to the WWTP and the main pump station, Pemberville operates three smaller pump stations.

This project deals specifically with the main sewage pump station. The main pump station has a single 15 horsepower low-flow pump rated for 410 gallons per minute (gpm) and two 50 horsepower high-flow pumps rated for 875 gpm. During periods of low flow, the low-flow pump operates and sends wastewater to the WWTP. During periods of wet weather when the low-flow pump cannot keep up with flows, the pump station automatically switches over to use of the two high-flow pumps.

The main pump station is equipped to allow connection of Pemberville's single portable generator. The generator is capable of powering only the low-flow pump. This leaves the main pump station vulnerable in the event of power loss when flows are exceeding the pump capacity of the low-flow pump. During a recent power outage, Pemberville identified the need for a permanent backup power supply capable of running both the high-flow pumps.

Project Description

Pemberville intends to install a natural gas backup generator at the main sewage pump station. Construction activities other than installation of the generator will include associated electrical and natural gas work and other ancillary tasks. Restoration of disturbed areas will take place following construction completion. Installation of the backup generator will take place on developed, urban Pemberville property at the main sewage pump station. This area contains no sensitive, unique, or otherwise valuable environmental resources.

Implementation

Pemberville proposes to borrow $100,000 from the Ohio WPCLF at the small-community rate of 2.11 percent (interest rates are set monthly and may change for the requested June loan award) to cover the costs associated with this construction project. Pemberville is eligible to receive up to $50,000 as backup power principal forgiveness. Assuming a full award of principal forgiveness, borrowing this amount in WPCLF monies could save Pemberville roughly $66,000 over the 10-year loan term compared to the current market rate of 3.86 percent.

The debt associated with this construction project will be recovered from monthly sewer charges. Pemberville instituted an automatic annual rate increase effective January 1, 2023, and each January 1, thereafter. The annual rate increase is a fixed amount of $1.00 on the base sewer rate unless otherwise modified by Pemberville through an approved motion. Upon completion of this project, the average annual sewer bill for customers served by Pemberville is projected to be $397. This represents 0.50 percent of the median household income for Pemberville (MHI; $79,659) and compares favorably to the Ohio average annual sewer bill of $749.

Public Participation

The Pemberville Village Council and Board of Public Affairs have regular public meetings at which residents are informed of issues related to the drinking water and wastewater systems, as well as upcoming and ongoing projects. Minutes for these meetings are provided for public viewing on Pemberville's website.

Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this 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 Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater system which involves improvements to existing mechanical equipment. 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. Installation of the backup generator will take place on developed, urban Pemberville property at the main sewage pump station. This area contains no sensitive, unique, or otherwise valuable environmental resources. It will be the contractor's responsibility to implement applicable construction best management practices to limit erosion, sediment, noise, dust, traffic disruptions, and like factors for the duration of the project. Due

to the nature and location of the proposed work, no significant short-term or long-term adverse environmental impacts are expected.

Is cost effective. The only suitable alternative to ensure the main pump station remains in full operation in the event of a power outage is to install a permanent backup generator. Pemberville has chosen a natural gas generator, as opposed to other generator types such as diesel, as there is already natural gas infrastructure in the area. Equipping the main pump station with a permanent generator also has the advantage of freeing up Pemberville's portable generator, allowing the village to utilize it at one of the other smaller pump stations if needed.

Is not a controversial action. The nature of the project is such that there will be no adverse impacts to residents, and no controversy about or opposition to this project has been reported. Pemberville's annual rate increase discussed previously is based on the total capital costs and operation and maintenance costs for Pemberville wastewater system and is not intended to cover solely the cost of this or any other specific 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 merely involves the installation of a backup generator at Pemberville's main sewage pump station and will not otherwise affect Pemberville's public wastewater system (e.g., collection, conveyance, discharge, etc.).

To conclude, Pemberville's proposed project is sufficiently limited in scope and meets all applicable criteria to warrant an LER. Based on 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 the quality of the human environment and on sensitive environmental resources (e.g., surface waters, coastal zones, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic and recreational rivers, prime and unique agriculture lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeological and historically significant resources, threatened and endangered species, and state and federal wildlife areas. Rather, completion of this project will provide Pemberville with the means to continue operation of their main sewage pump station in the event of a power outage, improving system reliability and resiliency.

Contact Information

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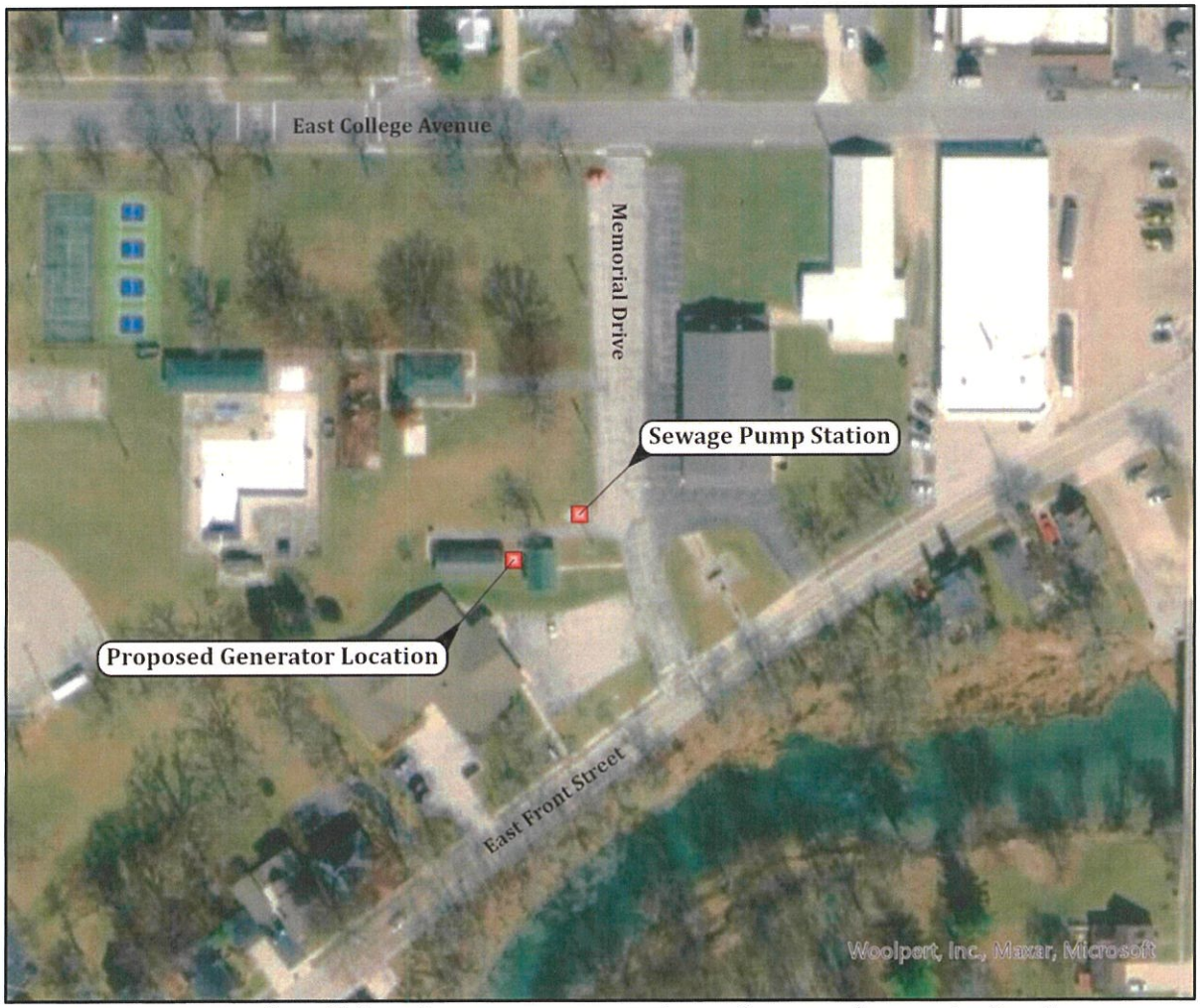

Figure 2. Pemberville's main sewage pump station and proposed generator location