



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Craig W. Butler, Director

**May 16, 2017**  
**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Tuscarawas County – Sandyville / East Sparta WWTP Upgrade**  
**Tuscarawas County**  
**WPCLF # CS390080-0016**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment project in your area 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 document.

Loan award will 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 blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Rouch".

*for*  
Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
Office of Financial Assistance

JR/DH

attachment

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### A. Project Identification

Project Name: Tuscarawas County – Sandyville / East Sparta WWTP Upgrade

WPCLF# CS390080-0016

Address: Board of Commissioners of Tuscarawas County  
125 East High Avenue  
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

### B. History and Existing Conditions

The Board of Commissioners of Tuscarawas County (County), on behalf of the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District (TCMSD), has requested approximately \$734,000 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to upgrade its Sandyville-East Sparta Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) (Figure 1). The proposed improvements will be the first comprehensive upgrade to the 40-year old WWTP that serves a population of approximately 5,000 in Tuscarawas County's Sandy Township and adjoining Pike Township in Stark County.

Additional funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Stark County, and the County will supplement the WPCLF loan to finance design and construction costs for new influent screening, a new aerator, clarifier renovations, pump upgrades, meters, a sludge dewatering facility, concrete repair, and other site improvements. The project will ensure continued effective operation of the 500,000 gallons per day average daily flow WWTP for the indefinite future.

### C. Project Description

The proposed improvements include construction (or replacement) of:

- a new headworks building with a mechanical fine screen and manual bar rack;
- a new sludge press building with new rotary fan sludge press;
- a new lift station and valve vault;
- a new sludge pumping meter and manhole;
- one aerator in the aerator tank;
- sludge recycling pumps and sludge scrapers; and
- enhanced erosion control at the WWTP outfall on Sandy Creek.

Construction requires excavation on a hill slope and tree removal. Tree clearing will occur between October 1 and March 31 to avoid potential harm to endangered Indiana

bats. The outfall erosion control enhancement involves only adding limestone riprap on the streambank above the water line. Standard construction best management practices will minimize soil erosion and storm water runoff when soil is exposed.

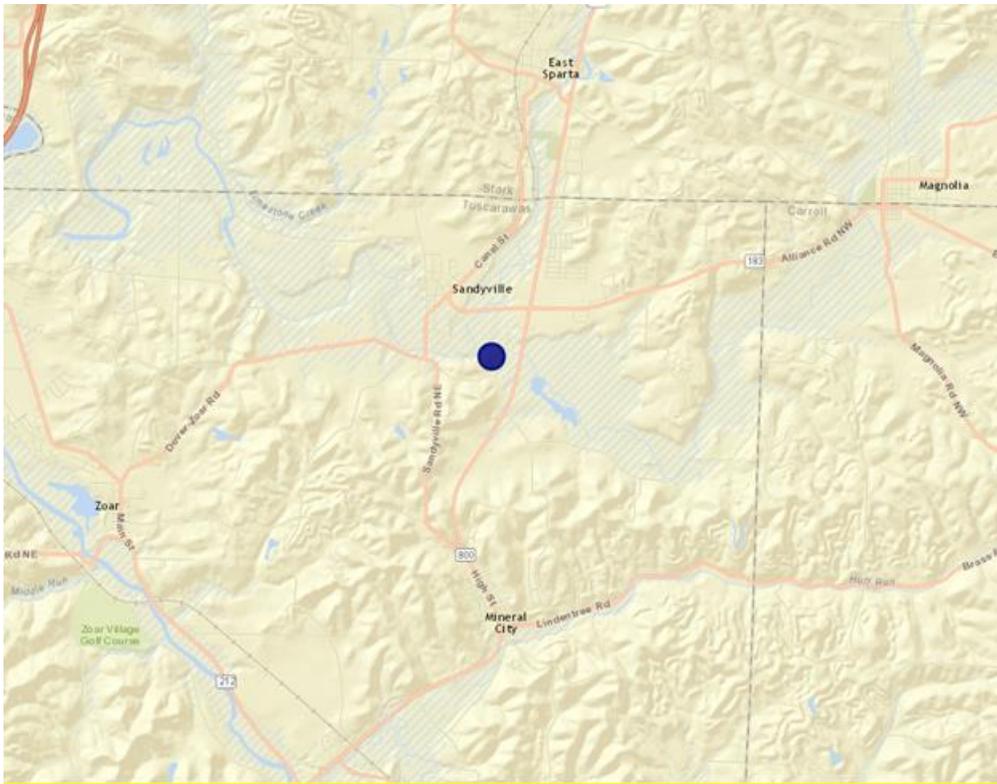


Figure 1 – Project Location

#### D. Estimated Project Costs

The construction cost estimate for this project is approximately \$1,705,000. Adding engineering, design, and associated administrative costs yields a total project cost of \$2,308,000. The financing package is composed of:

WPCLF	\$734,000 (all numbers rounded)
County	36,000
OPWC grant	300,000
ARC grant	225,000
Stark County	1,013,000.

The County will borrow approximately \$734,000 from the WPCLF at the “standard” interest rate (now 2.28%; the interest rate is set monthly and may change for a later loan award). During the 20-year loan period, the County will save approximately \$183,000 by using WPCLF dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 3.53%.

The County regularly reviews its sewer rate structure and adjusts rates according to 10-year projections. A 2.0% increase in late 2016 in anticipation of this project raised the typical residential monthly bill from \$37.00 to \$37.75. A typical annual residential bill by when construction is complete would be approximately \$453.

#### E. Project Schedule

Assuming approval of the WPCLF loan in May 2017, construction will begin promptly and be completed by August 2018.

#### F. Public Notification

Besides discussion of this project in regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners of Tuscarawas County, this project and the 2016 rate increase were the subject of two local news articles in late 2016. The County web page includes a 2017 projects update. Combined, this information constitutes acceptable availability of project information and opportunities for public comment.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (<http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> WPCLF Documents for Review and Comment) and will provide it upon request to interested parties. Information supporting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact is available from the project contact named below.

#### G. Planning Information

The proposed project was reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water and Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance. None of the review agencies opposes the project.

#### H. Conclusion

The proposed wastewater treatment upgrades are “actions in sewerred communities which are for minor upgrading, minor rehabilitation, replacement of existing mechanical equipment, and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent to existing facilities” that qualify for a LER and meet the following additional criteria for a LER:

*It has no significant environmental effect and no effect on high value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation – All work will be in, on, or adjacent to the existing WWTP facilities on land lacking significant environmental features. Necessary tree removal will occur in accordance with USFWS guidance to avoid potential impacts to endangered bat species, and excavation of a hill slope will incorporate standard construction best management practices to minimize storm water runoff impacts; neither of these constitutes “extensive specific impact*

mitigation.” Standard construction best management practices will also minimize the potential effects of noise, dust, and storm water runoff, generally.

*It is cost-effective and not controversial* – The County in 2013 evaluated the WWTP and concluded it is in good condition overall and needs only specific component upgrades. Rehabilitation and upgrading an existing facility is generally more cost-effective than constructing an entire new facility.

Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about this project that requires no specific rate increase beyond the modest, annual system-wide rate increases anticipated by the County. When the project is complete, the typical annual residential sewer bill will be \$453, which is approximately 1.0% of local median household income (MHI, estimated at \$45,700). This estimated bill compares favorably to the Ohio average sewer bill of \$655.

*It does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; 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; and it will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population* – This project upgrades and rehabilitates the existing Sandyville / East Sparta WWTP and alters neither the treatment capacity, existing flows, nor the discharge location.

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).

By using the WPCLF below-market rate financing in combination with other grants and cost-sharing, the County has minimized the project cost and the financial impact on the local economy.

I. For more information, please contact:

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