Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

April 1, 2021

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Village of Crestline – Crawford County
Main Street Waterline Replacement Phase 2
Loan number: FS390289-0009

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

Jonathan Bernstein

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Village of Crestline – Main Street Waterline Replacement Phase 2

Applicant: Village of Crestline
100 North Seltzer Street
Crestline, Ohio 44827

Loan Number: FS390289-0009

Project Summary

The Village of Crestline has applied to Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for low-interest financing of a proposed project to install approximately 2,800 linear feet (LF) of replacement water lines primarily along East Main Street in central Crestline. The construction of these improvements is a cost-effective way to ensure water service that is safe and reliable for residents and businesses, and it will help reduce water system costs by eliminating water contamination and loss due to leakage from old, failing water mains and the associated costly emergency repairs. The WSRLA program requires an environmental review as part of the loan award decision-making process. This document summarizes Ohio EPA's environmental review of the proposed Main Street Waterline Replacement Phase 2 project. The project, with an estimated loan amount of $479,911, has an anticipated loan award in April 2021 and a 5-month construction period.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Crestline, located in Crawford and Richland counties, owns and operates a potable water treatment and distribution system that serves a population of 4,478. The water system is fed by three ground water wells located at 3348 Milligan Road in Ontario, Ohio. The water is pumped to the water treatment plant (WTP) located at 1245 State Route 314 North in Ontario. Crestline's WTP provides an average daily water production of 0.5 million gallons per day (MGD).

Crestline's water distribution system was constructed in the 1930s, and mainly consists of cast iron waterlines with lead joints, and lead and galvanized service lines to homes and businesses. The aged system is beyond its useful life, has significant losses due to leaking pipes and joints, and experiences frequent water main breaks. These breaks result in large water losses, boil alerts, and expensive emergency repairs. Additionally, the presence of lead and copper in water lines is a potential public health risk that Crestline plans to address. Crestline recently completed their Phase 1 waterline replacement project, which replaced over 2,100 LF existing waterlines just west of the proposed Phase 2 project. Crestline also undertook a project in 2019 to renovate the WTP's existing iron filters. A Phase 3 project is planned to be performed in the coming years that will replace waterlines east of the proposed Phase 2 project.

Project Description

The proposed Main Street Waterline Replacement Phase 2 project (see figures 1 and 2) includes the replacement of approximately 2,800 LF of existing 12-inch diameter cast iron water mains along East Main Street between Seltzer Street and County Line Road in Crestline with new 12-inch PVC water

mains and water connections to mains on side streets. The water mains will be replaced within the city's right-of-way in approximately the same location as existing mains. The project will also identify and replace service lines in the project area that do not meet the Ohio Lead and Copper Rule for water distribution systems.

The proposed water main project installations are within the roadways and existing rights-of-way. These locations have experienced extensive and repeated disturbance related to water, sewer, and gas utilities, as well as paving activities. The new mains will be installed beneath the edge of pavement or under existing pavement, depending upon the location of the existing main. A trench will be dug within the existing road rights-of-way adjacent to the existing mains to be replaced. This work will include the restoration of bedding and compacted granular material or controlled density fill followed by full-depth pavement replacement along the trench. Once installed, the new mains will be pressure tested and reconnected to the up- and downstream mains. The project also includes abandonment of existing water lines.

Replacing the lines will improve flow and water quality; eliminate smaller mains that are a source of regular maintenance and poor fire flow; and minimize repairs.

Implementation

The estimated loan amount for the project is $479,911, all of which is expected to be funded through the WSRLA. Crestline qualifies for the standard long-term WSRLA below-market interest rate on 30-year loans, which in April is 0.74 percent. The standard rate is changed monthly to reflect bond rates and may be slightly different if the loan is awarded in a different month. Borrowing at 0.74 percent will save Crestline approximately $108,000 over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 2.04 percent. Crestline is also eligible for a lead service line discount for related project activities. These activities will be identified during the process of waterline replacement.

Debt for the project will be repaid from Crestline's Water Debt Fund without rate increases to pay for this project. The local median household income (MHI) is $42,038. Under the water rates that are effective in 2021 and based on a usage of 7,756 gallons of water per month, the average residential water bill is $34.81 per month, or $417.72 per year. This represents 0.99 percent of the MHI.

Public Participation

This Village of Crestline project has been discussed at various village council meetings, and no negative feedback has been received. A Notice of Commencement will be published in the local newspapers, and affected residents and businesses will receive a letter describing the project and potential disruptions. A public notice announcing the availability of this Limited Environmental Review (LER) will be posted on Village of Crestline and Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance websites for a period of 30 days. Thus, there have been adequate opportunities for information dissemination and public participation.

Conclusion

Ohio EPA conducts environmental reviews of all projects prior to WSRLA financing. The proposed project meets the project type criteria for an LER; namely, the project involves repair or functional replacement of existing water lines. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

- **will have no significant adverse environmental effect**, since sensitive resources such as floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeological or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species are not present in the project area.

- **does not require extensive specific impact mitigation**, as the proposed project involves the replacement of existing water mains located in urban road rights-of-way where the roads will be restored to their pre-project grade and condition.

- **will have no adverse effect on high value environmental resources**, as the project area includes highly developed urban area, with asphalt roads and numerous existing utilities, so no high value environmental resources are present there.

- **is not a controversial action**, as user rates will not be increased as a result of this project, nor will any adverse impacts to environmental resources likely occur. Further, Ohio EPA is unaware of any public opposition to the project.

- **is cost-effective,** as replacement of the water mains will ensure continuous potable drinking water supply to residents and businesses located in the project area at a reasonable cost by addressing those water mains most in need of repair.

- **does not create new, or relocate existing, discharges to surface or ground waters; and 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,** as no discharge points or pollutant loading will be part of the project. The project does not require the expansion of Crestline's WTP beyond its current capacity or require the addition of a supplementary water supplier, so it will not require a change in water withdrawal.

- **will not create new sources of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, or significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing source; nor will it provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population**, as the project scope is limited to replacing existing water mains.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources. Implementation of appropriate construction mitigation measures is required by the contract specifications and construction activity will be limited to the existing, previously disturbed road rights-of-way. The project will benefit the Village of Crestline by providing improved water service that is safe and reliable for residents and businesses, and will help reduce water system costs by minimizing/eliminating water loss due to leakage from old, failing water mains and by avoiding costly emergency repairs.

For further information, please contact:

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Figure 1: General project area (in red)

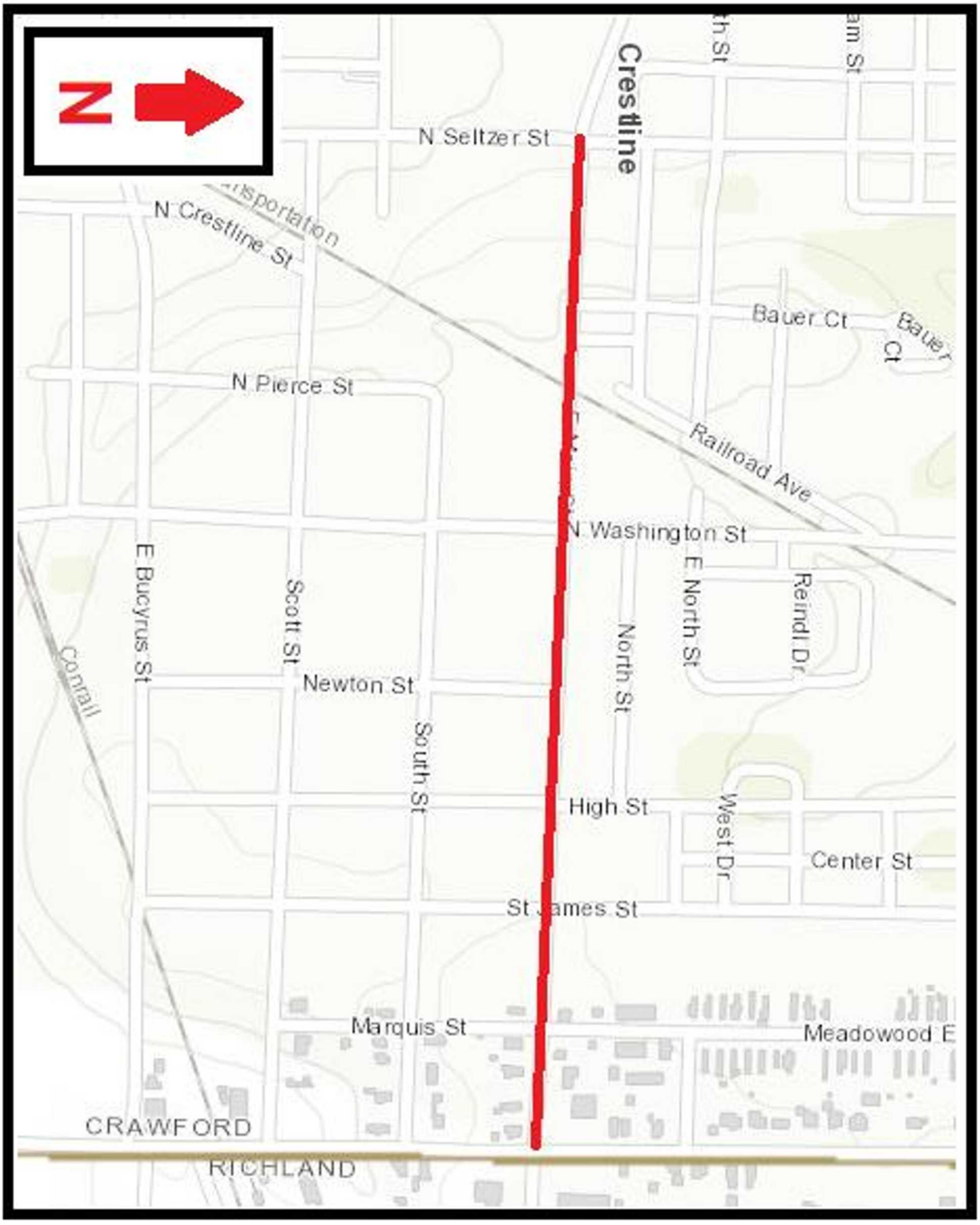

Figure 2: Project Area