



CITY OF LANCASTER
Storm Water Management

July 1, 2021

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

City of Lancaster; Fairfield County; Ohio

Whiley Road Water Loop

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water line extension project in the City of Lancaster, OH. This LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts as well as working in previously improved land qualifies it for the LER rather than a comprehensive Environmental Assessment. Any additional information can be obtained by contacting the City of Lancaster's Stormwater Department.

Sincerely,

Jake Pendleton
Environmental Specialist III
City of Lancaster

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Whiley Road Water Loop

Owner: City of Lancaster, OH
104 E. Main St
Lancaster, OH 43130

Project Summary

The City of Lancaster proposes to construct a water line to connect the water line on Magna Avenue to Ruble Park Avenue. The total cost of this project is currently estimated to be \$1,033,268.40. This will be funded through Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The work will primarily be completed within the Right-of-Way, primarily unimproved except for the U.S. Route 33 bypass. These improvements are planned to improve water pressure at the tail end of the water line on the west side of town and improve the reliability of lines in the area.

History & Existing Conditions

The City of Lancaster owns and operates two Water Treatment Plants, a north plant and a south plant. The North Water Treatment Plant, located at Miller Park, was initially built in 1925 and upgraded in 1959 and 1976, and it is due to be replaced soon utilizing the same wellfield. This plant currently averages 2.44 million gallons per day (MGD), while the new plant will be designed to operate at 6 MGD with a maximum service of 9.3 MGD. The South Water Treatment Plant, located south of the City near Sugar Grove, was built in 2008. This plant currently averages around 1.48 MGD with a maximum capacity of around 9 MGD. The total system includes over 177 miles of pipe throughout the City to provide service to around 18,000 customers.

Project Description

The current water system includes a water tank southwest of the City located on Mt. Zion Road. This tail end of the system is intended to serve customers on Whiley Road, connected to the City's primary system via a water line beneath the U.S. 33 bypass. This project will complete a second connection to this section of the service area to improve pressure and reliability to the primarily industrial users in the area. The total construction will include 1,380 feet of pipe to be installed, of which 342 feet will be bored under U.S. Route 33 with the rest to be installed by open trench. The 16-inch pipe will be installed from the end of Magna Avenue to the end of Ruble Park Avenue to provide a second connection to the area. The construction will take place entirely within Right-of-Way land, most of which is unimproved land with the exception being the U.S. Route 33 bypass.

Implementation

This project will be funded entirely through the Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds dedicated to the City by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Public Participation

This project been discussed multiple times at public meetings of the City of Lancaster's City Council between December 14, 2020 and June 28, 2021. There were no substantive comments about this

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

project during any of those meetings. This LER will be posted to the City of Lancaster's website for any who wish to view it and copies can be provided upon request. Comments, questions, or concerns can be directed towards myself, Jake Pendleton, or to Steven Wellstead P.E. We can both be reached at the City of Lancaster's Stormwater Department at (740) 681-5070.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for an LER. It is an action within an existing water treatment distribution system that is adjacent to existing facilities, namely, connecting two water lines together. The project also meets the additional requirements to be eligible for an LER:

Will have no significant environmental effect and will have no effect on high value environmental resources. Given the limited scope of the project and its proximity to previous improvements, as well as the lack of environmental features in the area, the proposed project will not have any adverse effects on the environment. There will be no tree removal, limited grading, and no permanent changes to above ground water resources.

Will not require extensive, significant impact mitigation unique to the assistance proposal. The proposed work to complete the project is straight-forward and does not require the mitigation of any environmental impacts outside of best management practices to be implemented during construction to limit the amount of disturbance to the existing land.

Is cost-effective and not the subject of controversy or significant public interest. The selected project is cost-effective in both financial terms and in non-monetary factors. The project is non-controversial because it will not provide any adverse impacts to the environment nor to the residents of Lancaster.

Will not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, or cause pollution of surface or ground waters. The limited scope of this project and lack of any permanent changes to surrounding grade will both result in no changes to surface or ground water flow.

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. The limited scope of this project and lack of any permanent changes to surrounding grade will both result in no changes to surface or ground water flow. Additionally, this project will not result in a change in the service area for the City of Lancaster's water system.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. The project will not add any service area to the City's system, as this project only adds redundancy to the system to increase pressure and reliability at the tail end of the system.

In conclusion, the proposed project is limited in scope and meets all the criteria for an LER. The planning activities conducted by The City of Lancaster have not identified any adverse impacts to the environment as a result of this project. The City does not anticipate any long-term changes to the environment through this project, and will have no impact on any sensitive environmental resources such as wetlands, floodplains, or unique agricultural lands. Additionally, we do not anticipate any adverse effects to threatened or endangered species. This project is intended to improve the pressure and reliability of the City water system while having little to no change on above ground features.

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

For any comments, questions, or comments, please contact the City of Lancaster Stormwater Department:

Jake Pendleton
Environmental Specialist III
Stormwater Department
City of Lancaster
121 E. Chestnut Street Suite 100
Lancaster, OH 43130
Email: jpendleton@ci.lancaster.oh.us

OR

Steven Wellstead P.E.
Stormwater Engineer
Stormwater Department
City of Lancaster
121 E. Chestnut Street Suite 100
Lancaster, OH 43130
Email: swellstead@ci.lancaster.oh.us