

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management. The activity is funded under the Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program under Grant number B-W-22-ICY-1. The proposed project is in Adams Township, Washington County, Ohio. The proposed waterline extension will consist of 31,625 linear feet of new waterline. Approximately 15,800 feet of the project along Muskingum River Road, Lowell Hill Road, and Augenstein Lane will be located in the 100-yr floodplain.

The Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: Several alternatives were evaluated for the Phase 6 project. Due to the steep terrain, utility conflicts, railroad crossings, river crossings, and easement acquisition issues, numerous water line routes were evaluated. The majority (86%) of the final route selected is within road right-of-way along Laure Ridge Road, Muskingum River Road, Augenstein Lane, Fritshe Lane, and Olloch Hill Road. The remaining 14% will traverse residential land, farmland, and forestland. This will impact approximately 0.3 acres of residential land, 0.5 acres forestland, and 0.8 acres of agricultural land. However, because the project is the extension of a buried waterline, impacts to the environment will be minimal and upon completion the ground surface will be returned to pre-project elevations. The project will also include one crossing of the Muskingum River and three planned stream crossings of unnamed tributaries to the Muskingum River. Open cut and horizontal direct drilling were evaluated for all three crossings and horizontal directional drilling was selected to minimize impacts to rivers and streams.

The Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District at the following address on or before April 10th, 2023: Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District, 5772 Buchanan Road, Waterford, OH 45786 and (740) 984-2348, Attention: Billie Huck, General Manager.

A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 7:00-11:00 am or 12:00-3:00 pm at the above address and at <https://Tricountyruralwater.com>. Comments may also be submitted via email at office@tricountyruralwater.com.

Date: March 24, 2023