

## **Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year/500-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 determined that the following proposed action under Water Supply and Revolving Loan Account and FS391353-0013 HUD grant number is located in the 100-year floodplain, and the Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, 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 and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District waterline project is located in northern Washington County, Ohio and will consist of 31,625 linear feet of new waterline. The purpose of the project is to address deficiencies with water distribution and to provide more customers with clean and safe drinking water, especially those who currently rely on contaminated individual ground water wells. 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. However, the waterline will be buried and will not impact the ground surface elevation resulting in a no impact to the 100-yr floodplain. The project will also include one crossing of the Muskingum River and three planned stream crossings of unnamed tributaries to the Muskingum River. All of these crossings will be conducted by horizontal directional drilling.

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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. 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 Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District at the following address on or before March 8<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:office@tricountyruralwater.com).

Date: 02/16/2023