Environmental Assessment Worksheet

| Grantee | Tri-County Rural Water & Sewer District |
|----------------------|---|
| Grant Number | B-W-22-1CY-1 |
| Activity Name | Tri-County Rural Water & Sewer District – Phase 6 Waterline Extension |
| Activity Location | Washington County, Ohio |

Activity Description:

The Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District proposes to construct approximately 3 miles of new waterline in northern Washington County, Adams Township, Ohio. The work will include extending a 6" water line along Laurel Ridge Road south from Greenlawn Drive past State Route 60 to Riverview Lane then across the Muskingum River to Muskingum River Rd (Twp. 32). Lines will then be run west along Muskingum River Road to Augenstein Lane (TR 123). The line will then be run west along Augenstein Lane across the railroad then across country south to Lowell Hill Road (CR 60). The State Route 60 crossing will be accomplished by a 410' HDPE Directional bore with 80' HDPE casing. In order to run the line across the Muskingum River a 630' HDPE directional bore will be used, and a Leak Detection meter will be installed on the discharge side because of ease of access.

From the Muskingum River crossing a 4" line will also be extended east and then across county to intersection with Lowell Hill Rd and then southeast to the railroad tracks to a flush hydrant. A line will then be run across the railroad tracks and then west to a flush hydrant; this will be accomplished with a 100' railroad bore and 8" steel casing.

From Muskingum River Road a 4" line will also be extended south along Fritsch Lane; this will be accomplished with a 104' Railroad Bore and an 8" steel casing.

From existing water line on Rainbow Road (Twp 31), a 4" line will be run from its intersection with CR 4 east and then across county northeast to Ollach Hill Road.

Refer to the attached Project Location Map and Plan Set.

| List of Attachments | | |
|--|--|--|
| Determination: | | |
| Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), whereby the Responsible Entity may proceed to Dissemination and publication of the FONSI, per regulations found at 24 CFR Section 58.43(a). | | |
| Finding of Significant Impact, whereby the Responsible Entity must proceed to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with 24 CFR Part 58, Subparts F or G. | | |
| Preparer Name: Longie R. Young | | |
| Signature Join R. March 23, 2023 | | |
| | | |



List of Attachments

| Location Map |
|--|
| Site Photographs |
| Copies of other Environmental Analyses (if applicable) List: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency EA & FNSI Phase I Archaeological Survey Abstract prepared by Weller & Assoc., Inc. |
| Other Relevant Correspondence and Notifications (if applicable) List: |
| Statutory Checklist Supporting Documentation |
| Environmental Assessment Checklist Supporting Documentation |
| Combined Notice: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF) Date: March 24, 2023 |
| Request for Release of Funds (RROF) Date: |
| Release of Funds (ROF) Date: |
| Additional Documentation Describe: |



Statutory Checklist Instructions:

For each of the environmental laws and authorities listed below, determine the level of compliance required and provide a narrative explanation and list of supporting documentation. The narrative must explain decision-making and compliance procedures. Attach all supporting documentation to this worksheet.

| Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 | Compliance Required? | Explanation and List of Compliance Documentation |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| Historic Preservation | | A Phase 1 Archaeological Survey has been previously conducted for this Tri- |
| Resources: <u>State Historic Preservation Office</u> <u>HUD Historic Preservation</u> | | County waterline extension project (January & February 2015) by Weller & Associates, Inc. This study included approximately 19.9 miles of waterline extensions, including the 3 miles of waterline extensions for Phase 6. The project corridor is in an upland rural setting in northern Washington County. The corridor involved testing along the right-of-way along various roads and did not intercept any small communities or villages. The project involves the installation of underground utility lines and will not involve any standing buildings or structures. The area of potential effect is very limited since the resultant work will be underground. Therefore, investigations were primarily concerned with the identification of archaeological resources. These investigations identified five previously unrecorded archaeological sites including 33WN492 and 33MG230-233. The sites that were identified are not considered to be significant or eligible for the NRHP. No further work is recommended for this project provided the easement remains consistent with the plans. <i>See attached SHPO coordination</i> . |

| Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 | Compliance Required? | Explanation and List of Compliance Documentation | |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| Floodplain Management Resources: Floodplain Maps Floodplain Administrators HUD Floodplain Management | Yes | As indicated on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel no. 39167C0069F and 39167C0075F, effective date of 4/16/2014 (attached) this action is located in the 100-year floodplain, Zone A, of the Muskingum River. The proposed project includes the construction of approximately 15,800 feet of the new waterline within the 100-year floodplain along Muskingum River Road, Lowell Hill Road, and Augenstein Lane. However, the waterline will be buried and will not impact the ground surface elevation resulting in a no impact to the 100-yr floodplain. Upon completion the ground surface will be returned to pre-project elevation. 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. An Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain was published in the Marietta Times on February 22, 2023 (attached). No comments were received. | |
| Wetland Protection Resources: NRCS Web Soil Survey National Wetlands Inventory Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water US Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory (Permits) HUD Wetlands Protection | Yes | OEPA determined in their review for the EA of Phase 6 for the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) loan program that the project will contain no in- wetland work, and therefore will have no impact on wetland areas. Refer to the attached OEPA Finding of No Significant Impact. Additionally, the US Army Corps of Engineers issued the use of NWP 58 for the project on June 23, 2022. Attached. | |
| Coastal Zone Management Resources: <u>ODNR Office of Coastal Management</u> <u>Ohio Coastal Atlas Map Viewer</u> <u>HUD Coastal Zone Management</u> | No | The project is located in Washington County, Ohio. According to the Ohio Coastal Atlas Map Viewer there are no coastal zones in Washington County. https://gis.ohiodnr.gov/MapViewer/?config=interactiveatlas. | |
| Sole Source Aquifers Resources: <u>Ohio EPA Sole Source Aquifers in Ohio</u> <u>HUD Sole Source Aquifers</u> | No | According to the OEPA Sole Source Aquifer website there are no sole source aquifers in or near the project area. <u>https://epa.maps.arcgis.com</u> . | |

| Statutory Checklist | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| Compliance Required? | Explanation and List of Compliance Documentation | | |
| Yes | The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) identified seven federally listed species that occur in the Tri-County region of Washington, Noble, and Morgan counties: the endangered Indiana bat, the threatened northern long-eared bat, threatened American burying beetle, and the following endangered mussel species: fanshell, pink mucket pearly, sheepnose, and snuffbox. OEPA's determination in the Draft Finding of No Significant Involvement, dated October 19, 2022, and the February 3, 2023 Preliminary Finding of No significant Involvement prepared for the project for a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account determined the following: The Indiana and northern long-eared bats have similar summer maternity and roosting habitat preferences (trees with large crevices or loose, sloughing bark higher than ten feet above the ground). If necessary, tree and vegetation removal will occur from October 1 through March 31 when bats are presumed absent from the area. The temporary construction of underground water lines will not have any permanent impact on the American burying beetles' habitat. According to the Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol, the Muskingum River is listed as a Group 4 stream classification, where federally listed mussel species are expected. Planned construction undemeath the river by horizontal directional drill will eliminate any impacts to these endangered mussel species. The three remaining stream crossings are either considered Group 1 or unlisted, where federally listed mussel species are not expected. Based on this information, the project will have no significant adverse short-term or long-term effect on terrestrial habitat or endangered species. See attached October 19, 2022, and February 3, 2023 OEPA Findings of No significant Impact letters. | | |
| No | According to ODNR and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers website (<u>www.rivers.gov</u>) there are no wild or scenic rivers in the project area. | | |
| | | | |
| No | Washington County, Ohio is currently in attainment status for all criteria pollutants, and therefore the project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act. Some short-term air quality impacts could occur during construction in the form of dust. However, in order to mitigate the contractor will commit to controlling dust. | | |
| | Required? Yes | | |

| Statutory Checklist | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 | Compliance Required? | Explanation and List of Compliance Documentation |
| Ohio EPA State Implementation Plans HUD Air Quality | | |
| Farmland Protection Resources: <u>NRCS Farmland Protection Policy Act</u> <u>HUD Farmlands Protection</u> | Yes | According to the NRCS websoil survey (websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov) there are prime farmland soils within the project area. However, because the project involves the construction of an underground waterline no long-term impacts will occur and there will be no conversion of farmland. There will be minimal short- term impacts when the waterline is installed, however the ground surface will be returned to pre-project conditions and no prime farmland losses are expected to occur. |
| Noise Abatement and Control Resources: HUD Noise Abatement and Control HUD Noise Guidebook HUD Day/Night Noise Level Electronic Assessment Tool HUD Sound Transmission Classification Assessment Tool ODOT Traffic Monitoring Ohio Airport Information Airport Master Records and Reports PUCO/ORDC Railroad Information Query by Location tool | Νο | The project does not include new construction for residential use or rehabilitation of an existing residential property, and therefore is in compliance with noise criteria. Project involves the construction of a buried waterline for existing residential properties and therefore is not sensitive to noise impacts. There may be short-term noise impacts during construction from construction vehicles, however this will be temporary and only during daylight construction activities. |
| Airport Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones Resources: <u>Ohio Airport Information</u> <u>HUD Airport Hazards</u> <u>Airport Master Records and Reports</u> | Νο | The project is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or within 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. |

| Statutory Checklist | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 | Compliance Required? | Explanation and List of Compliance Documentation |
| Explosive and Flammable Operations | No | The project is located in rural Washington County, Ohio and the majority of the project is located adjacent to existing roads. Site reconnaissance did not identify |
| Resources: | | any above ground storage tanks or hazardous facilities within the project area. |
| HUD Explosive and Flammable FacilitiesUS EPA NEPAssistUS EPA EnvirofactsHUD Choosing an Environmentally Safe SiteAcceptable Separation Distance CalculatorAcceptable Separation Distance Guidebook | | The NEPAssist tool was also used to determine if there was any site contamination within the project impact area. See attached. No resources were identified. |
| | | The project is located in rural Washington County, Ohio and the majority of the |
| Site Contamination | No | project is located adjacent to existing roads. Site reconnaissance did not identify |
| Resources: | | any above ground storage tanks or hazardous facilities within the project area. |
| HUD Site Contamination | | The NEPAssist tool was also used to determine if there was any site |
| US EPA NEPAssist US EPA Envirofacts | | contamination within the project impact area. See attached. No resources were identified. |
| Ohio EPA Asbestos Program | | |
| Ohio EPA Notification of Demolition and Renovation Ohio Tank Tracking & Environmental Regulations | | |
| HUD Choosing an Environmentally Safe Site | | |
| Environmental Justice | No | The project is an in-ground waterline project that will not have significant environmental impacts on the project area. The project involves the construction |
| Resources: | | of a buried waterline to address deficiencies with water distribution and to provide existing residents with clean and safe drinking water, especially those who |
| HUD Environmental Justice US EPA Environmental Justice | | currently reply on contaminated individual ground water wells. |
| US EPA EJSCREEN | | |

Environmental Assessment Checklist Instructions:

Evaluate the significance of the effects of the proposed activity on the character, features, and resources of the project area. Provide a narrative explanation and list of supporting documentation. **The narrative must explain decision-making and compliance procedures**. Attach all supporting documentation to this worksheet. For technical assistance, see HUD's <u>Environmental Assessment Factors Guidance</u>.

| Land Development | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| Impact Category | Impact Code | Explanation and List of Source Documentation | |
| Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design | No Impact Anticipated | According to the Washington County Engineer, Roger Wright, the waterline project is in conformance with county plans, is compatible with land use and zoning plans. See attached telephone record. | |
| Soil Suitability / Slope / Erosion / Drainage / Storm Water Runoff | Requires Mitigation | The proposed project will expose soil during the installation of the waterline. As a mitigation effort an approved erosion and sedimentation plan will be required. The contractor shall be responsible to maintain the silt fence and inlet protection to a point at which the site is stabilized. Stream crossing will be directionally bored. Refer to the attached Erosion and Sedimentation Control Narrative. | |
| Hazards and Nuisances Including Site Safety and Noise | No Impact Anticipated | The contractor shall develop a traffic plan prior to commencing construction which shall include all proper warning signs and lane closures and a commitment to minimize both the extent and duration of the disruption of traffic and disturbance during construction. For these reasons, the project will not adversely affect noise, traffic, and public safety. There may be short-term noise impacts during construction from construction vehicles, however this will be temporary and only during daylight construction activities. | |
| Energy Consumption | No Impact Anticipated | The project will have no impact on energy consumption as the project involves the extension of the existing Tri-County Rural Water & Sewer District water system. | |

Environmental Assessment Checklist

Environmental Assessment Checklist

| Socioeconomic | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Impact Category | Impact Code | Explanation and List of Source Documentation |
| Employment and Income Patterns | No Impact Anticipated | The project only involves the construction of new waterlines to existing residential homes and therefore will not impact employment and income patterns. |
| Demographic Character Changes, Displacement | No Impact Anticipated | The project only involves the construction of new waterlines to existing residential homes and therefore will not impact the demographic character of the area or result in any displacements. |

| Community Facilities and Services | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Impact Category | Impact Code | Explanation and List of Source Documentation |
| Educational and Cultural Facilities | No Impact Anticipated | There are no educational or cultural facilities within the project area impact area. |
| Commercial Facilities | No Impact Anticipated | There are no commercial facilities within the project area. |
| Health Care and Social Services | No Impact Anticipated | There are no health care and social services within the project area. |
| Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling | No Impact Anticipated | The project involves the construction of a waterline and will not have an impact on solid waste disposal and/or recycling. |
| Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers | No Impact Anticipated | The project involves the construction of a waterline and will not impact waste water and/or sanitary sewers. |
| Water Supply | Potentially Beneficial | The project will provide water services to existing homes, providing clean and safe drinking water, especially those who currently reply on contaminated individual ground water wells. |

| Community Facilities and Services | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| Impact Category | Impact Code | Explanation and List of Source Documentation | |
| Public Safety – Police, Fire and Emergency Medical | No Impact Anticipated | The proposed waterline project will have no impact on police, fire, and emergency services. The contractor will be required to implement a traffic control plan during construction along roadways providing safe passage for police, fire, and emergency service providers. | |
| Parks, Open Space and Recreation | No Impact Anticipated | There are no parks, open space or recreational areas in the project area. | |
| Transportation and Accessibility | No Impact Anticipated | The project will have no impact on transportation and accessibility. The contractor will be responsible for developing a traffic control plan to implement during construction and will be responsible for providing residents access to their properties. | |

| Natural Features | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| Impact Category | Impact Code | Explanation and List of Source Documentation | | |
| Unique Natural Features, Water Resources | No Impact Anticipated | According to the Ohio Department of Natural resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves website there are no unique natural features within the project area. The project includes one crossing of the Muskingum River and three stream crossings of unnamed tributaries to the Muskingum River. All of these crossing will be conducted by horizontal directional drilling, avoiding direct impacts the river and streams. | | |
| Vegetation and Wildlife | Potentially Adverse | Most of the waterline will be constructed in the right-of-way of existing roads. Only approximately 1,500 feet of the waterline will be constructed in forested habitat between Augenstein Lane and Lowell Hill Road. This will result in impacts to approximately 0.5 acres of forested habitat. To minimize impacts the contractor will only clear what is necessary to install the waterline instead of the entire 30- foot right-of-way. | | |
| Other Factors | No Impact Anticipated | NA | | |



24 CFR Section 58.6 Requirements

| Airport Runway Clear Zones and Clear Zones Notification [24 C.F.R. Part 51.303(a)(3)] | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Does the project involve the sale or acquisition of property located within a Civil Airport Runway Clear Zone or a Military Airfield Clear Zone? | | | | |
| No. Attach Source Document: The project doesn't involve the sale or acquisition of property. (Project complies with 24 CFR 51.303(a)(3).) | | | | |
| Yes. Notice must be provided to buyer. The notice must advise the buyer that the property is in a Runway Clear Zone or Clear Zone, what the implications of such a location are, and that there is a possibility that the property may, at a later date, be acquired by the airport operator. The buyer must sign a statement acknowledging receipt of this information. (for a sample notice, see the <u>HUD Exchange</u>) (attach a copy of the signed notice) | | | | |
| Coastal Barrier Resources Act [Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 3501] | | | | |
| Is the project located in a coastal barrier resource area? | | | | |
| No. Cite or attach Source Document. John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System. (Proceed with project.) | | | | |
| Yes. Federal assistance may not be used in such an area. | | | | |
| Flood Disaster Protection Act* [Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001-4128)] | | | | |
| Does the project involve acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of structures located in a FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Area? | | | | |
| The project involves the underground construction of a waterline. | | | | |
| No. Attach copy of Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) | | | | |
| Yes. Attach copy of Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) | | | | |
| Is the community participating in the National Insurance Program (or has less than one year passed since FEMA notification of Special Flood Hazards)? | | | | |
| Yes. Flood Insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program must be obtained. If HUD assistance is provided as a grant, insurance must be maintained for the economic life of the project and in the amount of the total project cost (or up to the maximum allowable coverage, whichever is less). If HUD assistance is provided as a loan, insurance must be maintained for the term of the loan and in the amount of the loan (or up to the maximum allowable coverage, whichever is less). (Attach a copy of the flood insurance policy declaration) | | | | |
| No. Federal assistance may not be used in the Special Flood Hazard Area. | | | | |
| *Per 24 CFR 58.6(a)(3), this requirement does not apply to State-administered CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs. | | | | |



Department of Development

Statement of Process and Status of Environmental Analysis

Instructions:

Provide a brief description of the administrative procedures associated with the construction and presentation of the environmental review record (ERR). List the Responsible Entity, Certifying Officer, the physical location of the ERR, the dates and comment periods associated with any public notices, and contact information for the submission of comments regarding the ERR.

Responsible Entity – Tri-County Rural Water & Sewer Authority (740) 984-2348, Attention: Billie Huck, General Manager

Certifying Officer- Wesley Watkins Community Development Analyst Office of Community Development

The ERR is available for review at 5772 Buchanan Road, Waterford, OH 45786, or https://Tricountyruralwater.com.

A Floodplain Early Public Notice was advertised in the Marietta Times on 2/22/2023. The comment period was open from 2/22 through 3/9/2023. No comments were received.

A final Floodplain Notice was advertised in the Marietta Times on 3/24/2023.

A Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds was advertised in the Marietta Times on 3/24/2023.



Description of the Site and Environmental Context

Instructions:

Determine existing conditions and describe the character, features, and resources of the project area and its surroundings. Identify the trends that are likely to continue in the absence of the project.

The proposed waterline extension is in Adams Township, Washington County, Ohio. The project area is rural in nature with farmlands located along the Muskingum River and upland plateaus, while forestland occupies the steeper slopes. Single family homes are scattered along the rural roadway network. If the project is not constructed residents with contaminated wells will have to continue using them.



Analysis of Alternatives

Instructions:

Examine alternatives to the project, including the alternative of no action.

Several alternatives were evaluated for the Phase 6 Waterline Project. Due to the steep terrain, utility conflicts, railroad crossings, river crossings, and easement acquisition issues, numerous water line routes were evaluated. The final route selected provided the best physical installation with the least environmental impacts. Several meetings with property owners also allowed for the mitigation of property concerns regarding the line locations. In addition to the alternative route selection, several options were evaluated on the water line size. Varying flows to the Village of Lowell were evaluated during the hydraulic analysis. The selected water line size meets the peak flow for the residential customers and the average daily demand for Lowell. Two locations for the possible Lowell interconnect were also evaluated. Based on input from the Village, it was determined the connection on State Route 60 would best serve the Village but was quickly denied for expense for the Village.

If Lowell connects to Tri-County, it will connect Lowell to a regional water system which provides water to residents in Washington County, Morgan County and Noble County in Southeast Ohio.



Analysis of Impacts and Mitigation Actions

Instructions:

Summarize and evaluate all potential environmental impacts, whether beneficial or adverse, and the conditions that would change as a result of the project. Describe measures to eliminate, minimize, or mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

Beneficial - The project will provide water services to existing homes, providing clean and safe drinking water, especially those who currently reply on contaminated individual ground water wells.

Adverse – Approximately 15,800 feet of waterline will be constructed in the 100-year floodplain. However, the waterline will be constructed underground, and the surface will be returned to pre-project elevations.

Approximately 1,500 feet (0.5 acres) of the waterline will be constructed in forested habitat. The contractor will minimize the impact by only clearing what is necessary to construct the waterline instead of the entire 30 foot right-of-way.



Monitoring and Enforcement Procedures

Instructions:

Describe any post-review monitoring or enforcement procedures associated with environmental mitigation actions.

None



List of Sources, Agencies, and Persons Consulted

| Kristin Parrish, Environmental Planner, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Ryan Weller, P.I., Weller & Associates, Inc. | | | | | |
| Roger Wright, Washington County Engineer | | | | | |
| Sandy Lahmers, Washington County Soil and Water | | | | | |
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List of Site Visits and Important Meetings

| Date | e | Participants | Description |
|--|---|--|--|
| • 05/ [*] • 09/ [*] • 10/ [*] | 18/2022 16/2022 16/2022 17/2022 21/2022 | Tri-County Rural Water & Sewer District Board and public. | Information regarding this project was provided to local residents during regular boards meetings where community members were encouraged to attend and provide input. The most recent date are listed. |
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Participants in the Review

| Name | Title | Organization |
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