



August 31, 2026

**Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact
To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies**

**Trumbull County
Stillwagon Road Water Improvements
Loan Number: FS390079-0054**

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a water regionalization project in Trumbull 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 EA describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have on the project. Making available this EA and seeking your comments 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 program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached EA.

Any comments on our preliminary determination should be sent to the email address of the contact named at the end of the EA. We will not act on this project for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice. In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. After that, Trumbull County can then proceed with its application for the WSRLA loan.

Sincerely,

Steve Malone, for

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Identification

Project: Stillwagon Road Water Improvements

Applicant: Trumbull County
160 High Street NW
Warren, Ohio 44481

Loan Number: FS390079-0054



Figure 1. Trumbull County

Project Summary

Trumbull County (Figure 1) requested approximately \$880,000 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for the Stillwagon Road Water Improvements project. The project involves providing water service to approximately 32 residential structures along Stillwagon Road, Niles Vienna Road, and Anderson Morris Road in Weathersfield Township in Trumbull County.

This project is eligible to receive the requested amount as a Small Underserved Disadvantaged Community (SUDC) grant award, which will not need to be repaid. Due to the nature and location of construction, as well as proposed protection measures to be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, as discussed in the Environmental Impacts section.

History & Existing Conditions

The Trumbull County - Niles' public water system (PWS) obtains its drinking water from the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (MVSD) which draws from the Meander Creek Reservoir. The reservoir can hold 11 billion gallons. MVSD operates a lime-soda softening water treatment plant (WTP) that has a design capacity of 60 million gallons per day (MGD). Treatment includes chemical addition for softening, disinfection, fluoridation, taste & odor control, mixing, settling, filtration, and pumping. MVSD treats approximately 26.2 MGD of raw water, and pumps it to Youngstown, Niles, and McDonald. These communities distribute the water to residents and surrounding areas. Niles distributes approximately 6 MGD through 100 miles of pipeline to residents and sells water to Girard, Lordstown, Mineral Ridge, and portions of Howland and Weathersfield townships.

Property owners within the project area currently have private on-site cistern and well systems, and many of these properties also utilize on-site septic systems. The property owners along Stillwagon Road and Anderson Morris Road in Weathersfield Township submitted petitions for public water service to the Board of Trumbull County Commissioners. This proposed project will provide access to public water service for 32 property owners and loop connections into the City of Niles PWS.

Population and Flow Projections

There are 32 properties that could potentially connect to public water service. The average single-family residence uses 4,500 gallons of water per month based on existing county water district data. Therefore, this will result in an increased demand of 4,800 gallons per day (GPD), which is well below the design production of 60 MGD from MVSD.

Alternatives

1. Do Nothing

This alternative would leave the current residents within the project area on private on-site cistern and well systems. This poses potential contamination risks as many of these properties utilize on-site septic systems as well.

2. Construct Water Main Extension (Regionalization)

This alternative would allow the customers in the project area another option for a water source aside from private on-site well systems. MVSD is currently the provider of bulk water for the Nile PWS and can supply the additional water demands from the new connections.

Selected Alternative

The selected alternative includes the installation of approximately 4,425 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch PVC water main to service 32 homes. The project will be connected at each end to the City of Niles water system which currently terminates service on Anderson Morris and Niles Vienna Road. A pressure-reducing valve will be installed to alleviate pressure zone concerns caused by the hydraulic grade line differences of the two Niles connection points. The project is owned by the Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer but will be part of the City of Niles PWS through a maintenance agreement between the city and Trumbull County.

See Figure 2 for the proposed project area.

Implementation

The total cost for this project is \$1,329,200. Trumbull County is eligible to receive \$879,948 in SUDC grant funds. With this favorable financing, Trumbull County will save over \$1.6 million compared to financing the entire amount as a loan at the market rate, 4.79%, for a 30-year loan period. Trumbull County is also eligible for \$460,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to cover the remainder.

Trumbull County indicated that no rate increases will occur due to this proposed project. The average annual residential water bill in the City of Niles is \$593.76 (\$49.48 monthly). This is 1.1% of the median household income for Trumbull County (MHI; \$53,537) and is greater than the Ohio average annual water bill of \$528.

Construction will begin after loan award and is expected to be completed within six months.

Public Participation

A public hearing for the Stillwagon Road area was held on September 12, 2024, with a 30-day public comment period and had a 57% approval rating based on frontage. A public hearing for the Anderson Morris Road area was held on July 30th, 2025, with a 30-day public comment period and had a 68% approval rating based on frontage. All costs expected to be incurred by property owners were disclosed in the public hearing notices mailed to each property owner. The public hearings were held before the SUDC grant was awarded for the project; therefore, owner approval ratings are expected to increase due to the reduced homeowner costs.

The project was also presented at the Trumbull County Commissioner's meetings. Meetings are open to the public and are held every Wednesday. The meetings are also livestreamed on Zoom through the county website. Commissioner meeting minutes and legislation can be found on the county's website.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. This Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the EA and FNSI have been provided to Trumbull County to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

Environmental Impacts

The project has the potential to affect the following features, but the effects will be reduced or mitigated to acceptable levels as explained below.

Local Economy

By using favorable financing, Trumbull County has minimized the project cost and economic impact on county residents. If a property owner connects to the system, they will be responsible for the cost to properly abandon their current auxiliary water source (currently \$85 through the Trumbull County Combined Health District), obtain permits from the City of Niles (currently \$150), and construct a small-diameter water line from the curb box to their structure. The total estimated mainline construction cost assessed for property frontage is \$59.98 per foot, and the estimated cost to construct the service line from the mainline within the right-of-way to the property line, plus the installation of a curb box would be \$2,000 per residence. Per Trumbull County policy, those are the maximum assessments that will be in effect (before receiving the SUDC grant), and the assessments will be reduced accordingly.

If the property owner chooses to keep an auxiliary water source active, an alteration permit from the Trumbull County Combined Health District will be necessary at a cost of \$234 for a single-family home. The installation (\$400 plus an initial testing cost of \$100) and annual inspections of a backflow prevention device (\$100 per annual inspection) will also be required.

Noise, Air Quality, Traffic, Safety, and Aesthetics

Heavy machinery that can emit temporary daytime noise may be involved and some traffic interruptions may occur; however, all work will occur within the right-of-way. Temporary, insignificant increases in fugitive dust and local air pollution from construction vehicle exhaust, like that of vehicles

regularly transiting the area, are expected. It will be the contractor's responsibility to implement construction best management practices to limit erosion, sediment, noise, dust, traffic disruptions, and like factors throughout the duration of the project. Disturbed surfaces will be restored upon construction completion.

Terrestrial Habitat, Fish and Wildlife, and Endangered Species

If needed, Trumbull County will only remove trees during the approved clearing dates of October 1st to March 31st to protect federally-listed endangered and threatened bat species. Some tree removal may occur within the right-of-way when installing the water main.

Unaffected Features

The following resources are not present and therefore will not be impacted by this project: Archaeological and Historical Resources, Wetlands, Aquatic Habitat, Surface Water Resources, Coastal Zones, Floodplains, Prime Farmland, Groundwater Resources, Sole Source Aquifers and Source Water Assessment and Protection areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Additionally, there will be no change in current Energy Use or Land Use as it pertains to public space, nor will there be any impacts to drinking water.

Conclusion

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this EA, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated. Completion of this water extension project will provide public water access to approximately 32 properties and thereby improve water quality for the current residents.

Contact information

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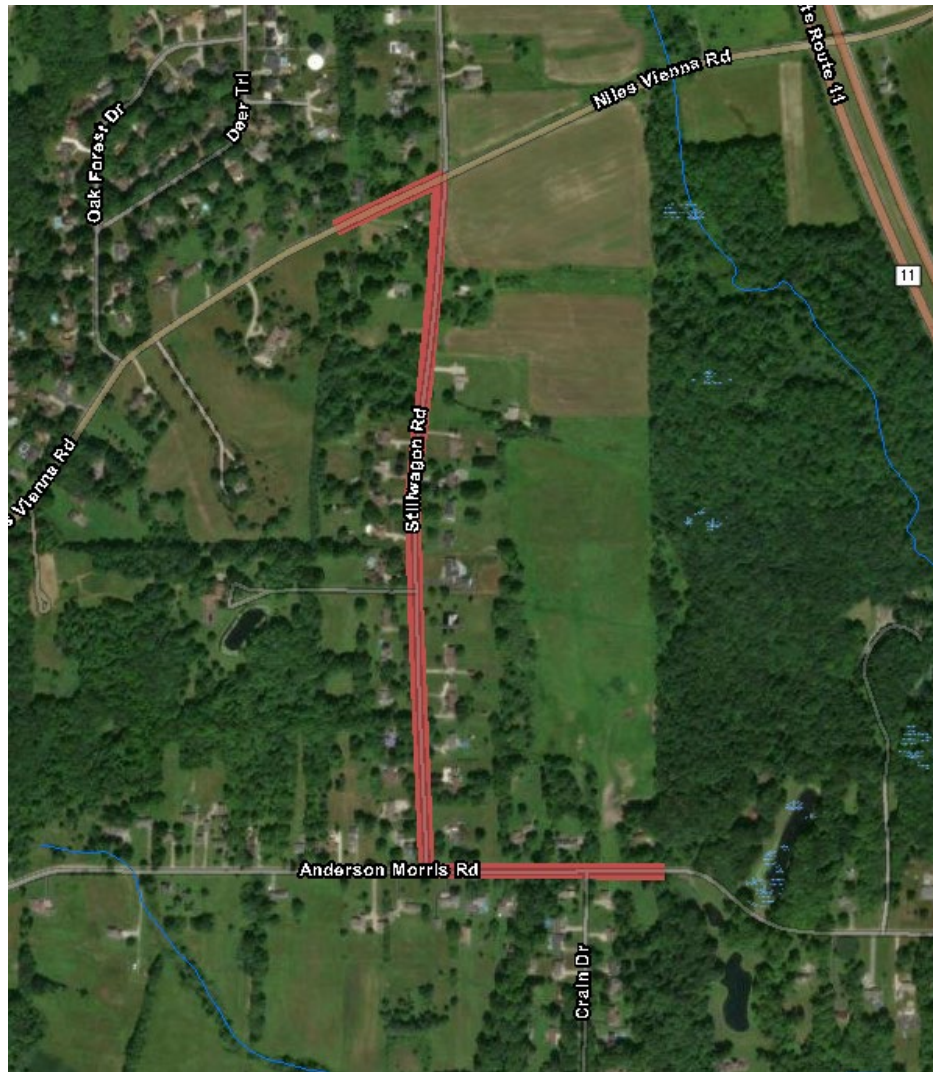


Figure 2. Proposed project area