



May 6, 2024

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

**Trumbull County
Scoville Drive Sanitary Sewer Improvements
Loan Number: CS390079-0061**

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a sewer infrastructure extension project in Trumbull County which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) 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 WPCLF 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 WPCLF loan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Identification

Project: Scoville Drive Sanitary Sewer Improvements

Applicant: Trumbull County
160 High Street
Warren, Ohio 44481

Loan Number: CS390079-0061

Project Summary

Trumbull County has requested \$234,000 in financial assistance from Ohio EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to extend sewer to properties along Scoville Drive. This proposed project is intended to provide a solution to the project area's failing household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) and eliminate one church-owned package plant. All of the proposed construction will occur within a prior-disturbed area in and along Scoville Drive. The total project cost is estimated at \$584,000.

This project will eliminate a declared public health nuisance caused by failed off-lot septic systems by conveying all sewage generated from the project area to Trumbull County's Mosquito Creek wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The project was initiated through a petition from the property owners within the project area to the Board of Trumbull County Commissioners.

History & Existing Conditions

The project area is in Vienna Township, Trumbull County. Residences along Scoville Drive are currently unsewered and rely on failing HSTS for wastewater treatment. There is also a church on Scoville Drive that is currently served by a package plant.

The Trumbull County General Health District conducted sampling efforts within the project area in October 2020. The results of the sampling resulted in the declaration of a public health nuisance due to extreme levels of fecal coliform within the project area due to failed off-lot septic systems. This project will address the public health threat by replacing the failed off-lot septic systems with a gravity sanitary sewer collection system.

Population and Flow Projections

Design for this project involved the assignment of estimated sewage flows for the existing connections in the project area. Each of the 15 single family residential connections is assumed to generate an average daily flow of 400 gallons. Based on flow data from the church's regulated package plant, the average flow is approximately 4,000 gallons per month or about the same as a single residential unit. This adds up to a total of 16 units to be used to determine the average daily flow and peak daily flow.

The existing collection system and the Trumbull County Mosquito Creek WWTP have adequate capacity to accept the proposed flow.

Alternatives

No action: This alternative would not eliminate the failing HSTS in the project area and so was eliminated from any further consideration. Similarly, HSTS upgrades were evaluated and found to be impractical given existing lot sizes and soil conditions in the project area.

Replace HSTS: An other alternative available to eliminate the current health nuisance is to replace the failed septic systems with new ones built to current standards.

Selected Alternative

The selected alternative is to construct a gravity sanitary collection system consisting of 1,576 linear feet of 10-inch sanitary sewer, 638 linear feet of 6-inch laterals, six manholes, and 16 sanitary sewer service connections to provide sanitary sewer service to the residential structures and one church on Scoville Drive. This is the alternative requested by the property owners within the project area as evidenced by their submittal of a petition for sanitary sewer service to the Trumbull County Board of Commissioners. Sanitary sewers are expected to be installed at depths no greater than 7 to 12 feet. About 3,000 cubic yards of spoil material is expected to be generated during this proposed project.

With the significant improvement in wastewater collection and human health conditions, the proposed project is expected to take about three months to complete. Restoring the project area to its existing (or better) condition is an additional component of the proposed project.

The figure below illustrates the current project area.

Implementation

The total estimated construction cost of the county's proposed project is about \$584,000. Of this amount, the county requested about \$234,000 from the WPCLF program, at a zero percent interest rate. Utilizing WPCLF funding will save the county approximately \$100,000 over the 20-year loan term compared to the current market rate of 3.85 percent. The Board of Trumbull County Commissioners have allocated \$350,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds to supplement the project financing.

Under the county's proposed project schedule, WPCLF funds are expected to be awarded in June 2024, so that construction can commence soon thereafter. The county estimates that construction can be completed in about three to five months.

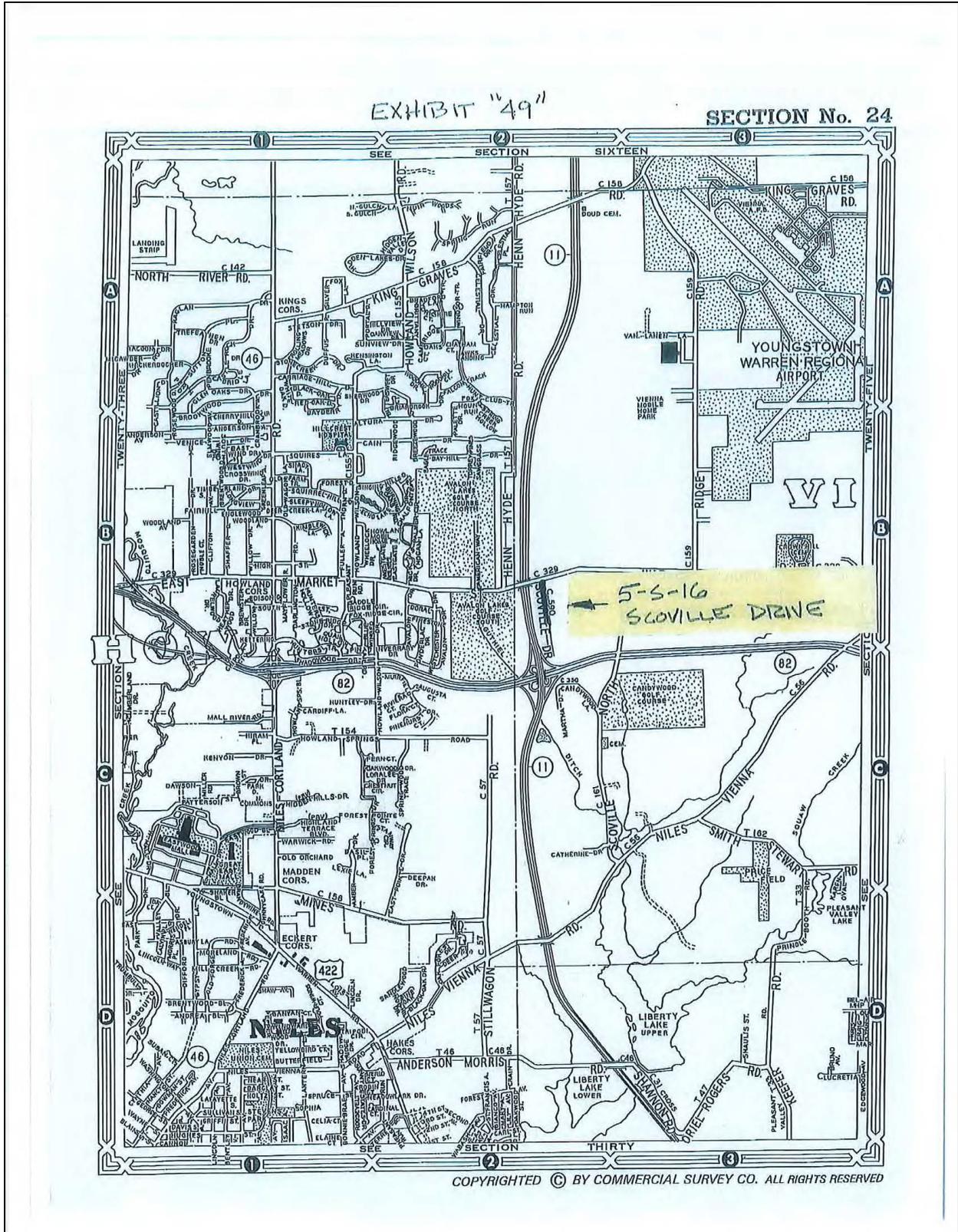


Figure 1. Scoville Drive project area

Public Participation

According to Trumbull County, a public hearing was held on December 14, 2023, to provide citizens with pertinent information about the county's proposed project. All costs expected to be incurred by all property owners were disclosed in the public hearing notices mailed to each property owner.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its announcements web page (<https://epa.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/epa/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements>) and will provide it upon request. A copy may also be posted at the county's main building and on its web site (if available).

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.

Air quality and energy use – While Trumbull County is in full attainment for all six priority air pollutants, any fugitive dust generated by this sewer construction project shall be controlled. The project is such that effects on air quality and energy use will be minimal and temporary.

Aquatic habitat and surface water resources – To extend the sewer, no stream crossings are necessary. By providing soil erosion and sedimentation controls, seeding and mulching to restore areas after construction, no significant adverse impacts on this resource attribute are expected.

Archaeological and historical resources – Given the prior-disturbed conditions in the project area, Ohio EPA has concluded that the proposed project will have no effect on these resources.

Endangered species, fish and wildlife, and terrestrial habitat – As the project area is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, and the federally proposed endangered tricolored bat, any removal of trees with suitable habitat characteristics should occur only October through March. The county has agreed to follow the recommended seasonal cutting restrictions.

Given the site conditions found in the project area, suitable habitat for other two other known federally listed species (the eastern massasauga rattlesnake and the monarch butterfly) appears to be absent. Thus, no impacts on these federally listed species are expected.

Floodplain -There are no floodplains in the project area, so this proposed project will have no effect on this resource.

Ground Water Resources – According to the county's geotechnical report, high ground water conditions were observed at several locations. As a result, dewatering may be required during trench excavation and sanitary sewer installation. Because the county's detail plans and specifications include the necessary mitigative measures, Ohio EPA has concluded that no significant adverse environmental impacts (either short-term or long-term) should occur.

Noise/traffic/aesthetics/safety – With the noise, traffic, and safety provisions in the detail plans to control activities that can affect these project area conditions, no significant, adverse, long-term impacts are expected. Rather, after completion of the project, noise and traffic levels should return

to pre-construction levels. Further, a long-term improvement in area aesthetics is expected with elimination of failing HSTS and their replacement with a gravity sewer collection system. The project is such that effects on air quality and energy use will be minimal and temporary.

Local economy – Following connection to the sanitary sewer, residents will begin paying a monthly bill. The average annual sewer bill for Trumbull County residents is expected to be \$482. This represents 0.95 percent of the median household income (MHI) of \$50,258.

Additional charges will include a one-time tap-in fee of \$1,850 per dwelling (\$50 of which is for inspections which will be covered by county ARPA funds), septic abandonment fee of \$125, and the cost to extend the lateral to the sewer (about \$2,000). An owner-occupied low-to-moderate income (LMI) household will only be responsible for the tap-in fee. To repay the county for costs associated with extending sanitary sewer, assessments between \$6,000 and \$27,000 per home will be collected based on a front footage fee of \$75.

Unaffected features – Based on the project’s scope, location, and prior disturbances, the county’s proposed project is expected to have no effect on coastal areas, recreational land, sole source aquifers, or wild and scenic rivers. These environmental attributes are not in the project area.

Conclusion

Based upon Ohio EPA’s review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Environmental Assessment, 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. Overall, a net improvement in water quality is expected to result from the proposed project’s construction.

Contact information

Kevin Hinkle
Ohio EPA, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Office of Financial Assistance, Environmental Planning Unit
PO Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Email: kevin.hinkle@epa.ohio.gov