

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SECTION 594 LORE CITY WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
VILLAGE OF LORE CITY, GUERNSEY COUNTY, OHIO

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, is proposing to cost share installation of a decentralized septic tank effluent pumping (STEP) collection system in Guernsey County, Ohio. The Non-Federal Sponsor is the Village of Lore City, Ohio. This project is authorized under Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 as amended, which has the primary objective of providing design and construction assistance to Non-Federal interests for carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure projects in the State of Ohio.

The proposed project consists of the design and construction of a decentralized septic tank effluent pumping (STEP) collection system to serve approximately 163 properties. Wastewater will be collected in STEP tanks and then conveyed via small diameter force main to a recirculating packed bed filtration treatment system. Each private property will receive a STEP septic tank which will connect to a small diameter force main collection system. Wastewater will be conveyed via the force main collection system to the treatment system. The proposed project is needed to eliminate failing on-site septic systems throughout the Village of Lore City. The purpose of the project is to provide the Village of Lore City with a functioning sewer system that is cost effective to implement and fits within the current land limitations.

In order to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Non-Federal Sponsor prepared an Environmental Assessment that evaluated the impacts of the proposed plan on environmental and cultural resources within the project area. In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service was contacted and it was determined that the proposed project is not likely to adversely impact federally listed species. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted. The SHPO anticipates no effect to cultural or historical resources from the proposed project.

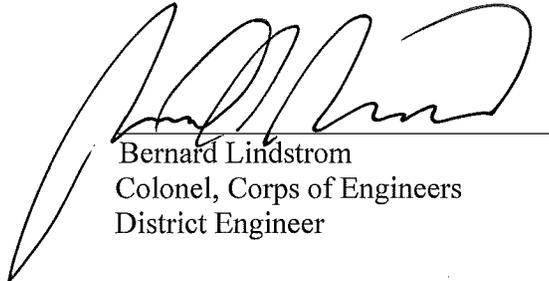
The Environmental Assessment included a "No Action" alternative, which was determined to be unacceptable as it does not fulfill the project purpose and due to the fact that the Village currently has a high percentage of failing on-site septic systems. Additional alternatives considered included four alternatives for treating the sewage and two alternatives for collecting the sewage. The treatment alternatives utilizing a trickling filter or treatment at a nearby wastewater treatment plant were determined to be cost prohibitive and not recommended for further consideration. The treatment alternatives utilizing an unaerated lagoon or constructed wetlands required too large of land footprints to be implemented within the project area. The two collection alternatives of conventional gravity sewers and small diameter gravity sewers were determined to be cost prohibitive due to rock excavation required.

Based upon the analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment, I have reasonably determined that the proposed wastewater improvement project will not

constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. The preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is therefore unwarranted, and the public interest will be best served by the implementation of the proposed action. The proposed work is in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations and there are no unresolved environmental issues. This determination precedes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' final decision concerning this proposed action. A notice of availability of this "Finding of No Significant Impact" will be sent to interested parties and placed on the District's website (<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil>).

13 MAY 2016

Date



Bernard Lindstrom
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer