

Finding of No Significant Impact

FAIRLAWN SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW FACILITY PROJECT CITY OF NILES, TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO

SECTION 594, OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, proposes to participate in the construction of a sanitary sewer overflow vault, detention tank, and a draining pump station within the City of Niles, Trumbull County, Ohio, under the authority of the Ohio Environmental Infrastructure Program authorized by Congress in Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53), as amended.

The proposed \$3,200,000 project consists of a sanitary sewer overflow vault, a 500,000 gallon detention tank, and a draining pump station. The project is located on a 12-acre city owned parcel between the east end of Fairlawn Avenue and Mosquito Creek. The impacted land area is 8,502 square feet. This project is necessary to alleviate local flooding from surcharged sanitary sewers during wet weather events.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, the local sponsor prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Pittsburgh District and consulted with the Pittsburgh District Regulatory Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Ohio Historical Society in its preparation. The EA addresses the proposed action, the no action alternative, and two other alternatives. The no-action alternative would fail to eliminate overflows from sanitary sewers in the area that were determined unacceptable and require action by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The first alternative considered was increasing the capacity of the existing sanitary sewer collection system. This would put strain on the city's wastewater treatment plant by increasing the inputs to the plant during wet weather events. Just increasing the system would not be an adequate solution to the large volume flows, and therefore this alternative was not selected. Another potential alternative was to increase the capacity of the Niles' wastewater treatment facility. The increased capacity would be able to handle the higher flows associated with wet weather events in the area. However, without an upgrade to the collection system, the local flooding would still max out the system. This alternative was not selected due to the inadequate solution to the system-wide problem. The proposed action will allow residences and businesses to tie-in to an environmentally compliant sanitary sewer system and will bring the city into compliance with the U.S. EPA.

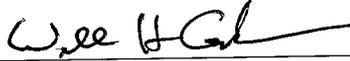
Potential impacts were addressed with regard to floodplains, vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, hazardous and toxic wastes, water quality and fisheries, wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, traffic and public safety, noise, recreation and aesthetics, and land use and socioeconomic resources. No significant environmental and cultural resources have been identified in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project. Adherence to the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan will minimize impacts from construction. This project design will comply with all applicable environmental laws. Coordination under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been completed. Coordination has also

been completed with the Ohio Historical Society under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The City of Niles has also obtained the necessary permits and approvals from the Pittsburgh District, Regulatory Branch.

I have reasonably determined that the construction of the proposed sewer system overflow facility in the City of Niles, Trumbull County, Ohio would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the human environment as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality's current regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. The preparation of an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act is not warranted. This determination precedes the Corps of Engineers' final decision concerning this proposed action. A notice of availability of this FONSI will be placed at the McKinley Memorial Library, 40 N. Main Street, Niles, Ohio, and on the District's website.

17 MARCH 2011

Date



William H. Graham
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer