

Finding of No Significant Impact
SECTION 313, ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
ROUTE 18 SANITARY SEWER PROJECT
CANTON AND CHARTIERS TOWNSHIPS, WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, proposes to participate in the design and construction of a gravity sewer system within Canton and Chartiers Townships, Washington County, Pennsylvania, under Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (PL 102-580) as amended by Section 107 of the conference report accompanying the FY96 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, Public Law 102-580, as amended.

The proposed project consists of the design and construction of a gravity sanitary sewer system beginning at the end of the existing system, at the intersection of North Hewitt Avenue and Route 18, and continuing to Lynn Portal Road. The main system will include a gravity trunk interceptor along Georges Run and gravity collection systems to the north and south into Canton and Chartiers Townships. To conform to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Act 537 planning document, the system will be constructed using PVC piping with the collection lines sized at 8 inches in diameter and the interceptor sized at 15 inches in diameter. The gravity sewer system will provide service to 291 existing homes and 9 existing businesses.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, HMT and Associates, Inc. prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the local sponsor and consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, PADEP, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in its preparation. The EA addresses multiple alternatives, including the proposed action and the no action alternative, to address failed or failing on-lot sewage systems in the project area utilized by residences and commercial businesses that are creating a public health risk. The no-action alternative would allow for the unsatisfactory continuation and progressive worsening of the current conditions that pose health and pollution risks to the region as well as inhibit economic development along the Route 18 corridor, and was therefore rejected as a viable option. Repairing the individual on-lot systems was rejected due to unfavorable soils and limited areas within lots for construction, as well as the high cost of the repairs or upgrades. The use of multi-lot and community treatment facilities was considered. This alternative was determined not to be favorable due to the fact that the area is able to be gravity sewered to an existing system with appropriate capacity for far less expense. Currently, homeowners and businesses within the area whose existing on-lot systems have failed beyond repair have been mandated to install holding tanks. This alternative has high operation and maintenance costs and is not a viable long-term solution, and was therefore rejected. Based upon compared initial cost, continued maintenance cost, and system reliability and longevity, the addition to, and use of existing treatment facilities is the most favorable option. The proposed action will allow residences and businesses to tie-in to an environmentally compliant sanitary sewer system and promote economic growth for the Route 18 corridor.

Potential impacts were addressed with regard to floodplains, vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, hazardous and toxic wastes, water quality and fisheries, wetlands, endangered species,

