FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CITY OF WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA
CATFISH CREEK STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT
SECTION 313, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, is proposing to cost share a stormwater management project with the City of Washington (Non-Federal Sponsor). This project is authorized under Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 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 south central Pennsylvania.

The proposed project consists of the design and construction of a stormwater control feature along the Washington Park tributary of Catfish Creek which will alleviate stormwater problems in the City of Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania. The proposed project will remediate an existing stormwater catchment by increasing the storage capacity; this will consist of dredging accumulated sediment from the pond and modifying the pond outlet structure. The proposed project will reduce the impact of stormwater runoff by reducing pollutant loads and storing stormwater runoff volumes through the use of more natural and sustainable design techniques.

Water quality within the project area is currently being degraded due to excessive stormwater runoff within the Catfish Creek watershed. Steep slopes, extensive impervious surfaces, and the lack of stormwater management infrastructure have resulted in a very flashy flow regime in the watershed. The watershed is experiencing biological and water quality degradation of the basin due to streambank erosion and illicit discharges of sanitary sewer flows which are attributed to the lack of effective management of the basin's stormwater. The proposed project will reduce peak stormwater runoff in the City of Washington and will also begin to mitigate existing water quality degradation and protect downstream surface water resources.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Non-Federal Sponsor prepared an Environmental Assessment that evaluated impacts to environmental and cultural resources within the project area. In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Search was performed which resulted in no known impact to threatened or endangered species. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation which represents the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was contacted. The SHPO anticipates no effect to cultural or historical resources due to the proposed project. A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit including erosion and sedimentation pollution control will be required for this project.

In addition to the proposed project, the Environmental Assessment included a "No Action" alternative, and three alternatives for constructing stormwater management projects on alternative sites (Area 1, Area 10A, Area 6A). "No Action" is unacceptable because stormwater flashes would continue to occur and degrade the Catfish Creek drainage basin. Two of the

alternative stormwater management projects on different sites (Area 1, Area 10A) were rejected due to unsuccessful landowner negotiations and inability to obtain the required real estate. The final alternative location (Area 6A) is currently used as a park and was eliminated as an alternative due to the potential recreational impact on the community during flood events.

I have reasonably determined that the design and construction of the Catfish Creek Stormwater Management 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 current 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. This determination precedes the Corps of Engineer's 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).

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Date

William H. Graham
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer