

Finding of No Significant Impact

NEW ALEXANDRIA SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT OUTFALL PIPE DERRY TOWNSHIP, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, proposes to grant an easement for a sewage treatment plant outfall pipeline, at Loyalhanna Lake, to the Derry Township Municipal Authority in Derry Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

The proposed easement will be located about 3000 feet north of State Route 22, just off Ray Ann Drive, along State Route 981, adjacent to Loyalhanna Lake. The 8-inch PVC effluent line will extend a total of 676 feet, from the permitted 110,000 gallon per day sewage treatment plant, down a steep slope and will discharge from the easement location downstream into Loyalhanna Lake. A 15-inch stormwater pipe will also be installed, parallel to the effluent line, to convey the stormwater not infiltrated on-site, that is collected by the sewage treatment plant's detention pond. Both pipes will tie in to a 10 foot wide endwall and discharge to a 15-foot wide by 15-foot long rock apron. The proposed permanent easement will be 25 feet wide and will cover the last 250 feet of the effluent line. Additionally, a 10 foot wide temporary easement will be established on each side of the permanent easement to account for construction activities. The total area of easements on U.S. Government property will be approximately 11,250 square feet.

This project is part of the *Phase 2 New Alexandria Sewer Project*, being undertaken by the Borough of New Alexandria and Derry Township in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office, and the Pittsburgh District. Under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Rural Development Office completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled *Environmental Report for the Derry Township Municipal Authority Phase 2 New Alexandria Sewage Project* and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in June of 2007. These documents analyzed the entire Phase 2 New Alexandria Sewage Project. Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co., Inc. completed a separate EA for the Pittsburgh District covering the specific impacts associated with the easement area. The EA addresses the proposed action and the no action alternative as well as other alternatives including improvement of individual on-lot systems, land application of wastewater, and an alternate location for the treatment plant. The no-action alternative would allow for the unsatisfactory continuation of the current conditions that place the community in violation of state and federal regulations, i.e., the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law (Act of June 22, 1937, Public Law 1987, as amended), and was therefore rejected as a viable option. The construction or improvement of individual on-lot systems would need to comply with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) regulations contained in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 73. This alternative was rejected given the limitations of native soils, shallow depth to bedrock, and the small lot sizes, that would result in great expense to individual property owners from maintaining systems that operate at PADEP standards. Land application of wastewater was ruled out due to high costs associated with additional land acquisition, and technical constraints with cold winters, short growing seasons, and high ground water. All alternate locations were ruled out early in the plan formulation process due to topographic as well as economic limitations. The proposed action will allow residences and businesses to tie-in to an environmentally compliant sanitary sewer system and resolve existing violations facing the Derry Township Municipal Authority.

Potential impacts were addressed with regard to floodplains, vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, hazardous and toxic wastes, water quality, 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. Placement of the proposed lines in the area previously disturbed by the existing plant and strict adherence to the approved Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan will minimize any temporary or long term environmental impacts. 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 and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act has been completed. The Derry Township Municipal Authority has obtained the necessary permits and approvals from the PADEP (NPDES permit number PA0254088 and General Permit GP056510216).

I have reasonably determined that granting the proposed easement at Loyalhanna Lake within Derry Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania 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. Copies of this draft FONSI will be placed on the District's website (<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil>) and circulated for a minimum 30-day review to concerned agencies, organizations and the interested public.