

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
WESTMORELAND AND FAYETTE COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA
WASTEWATER FACILITIES UPGRADE AND EXPANSION
SECTION 313, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, is proposing to cost share a wastewater facilities upgrade and expansion project with the Westmoreland Fayette Municipal Sewage Authority-WFMSA (Non-Federal Sponsor). This project is authorized under Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 as amended, the primary objective of which is to provide design and construction assistance to Non-Federal interests in carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure projects in southern Pennsylvania counties.

The proposed project which is to be cost-shared by the Corps of Engineers consists of the design and construction of a wastewater treatment facility which will service residents in East Huntingdon Township and Scottdale Borough in Westmoreland County and Upper Tyrone Township and Everson Borough in Fayette County. The proposed project will replace the vintage 1960's WFMSA sewage treatment facility and increase system capacity from 1.6 million gallons per day (MGD) to 2.5 MGD with 8.75 MGD capacity during wet weather events. The proposed project will also reduce combined sewer overflow events during wet weather and will provide service to unsewered areas of East Huntingdon and Upper Tyrone that are plagued with raw sewage discharging into open ditches and surface waters.

Water quality within the project area is currently being degraded due to the presence of malfunctioning, on-lot systems, "wildcat" sewer systems that directly discharge untreated sewage into surface waters and combined sewer overflow events during wet weather. The proposed project will eliminate the discharge of raw sewage from "wildcat" sewers, and will minimize combined sewer overflows during wet weather events. The proposed project will assist in the propagation of fish, aquatic life, and wildlife and permit more extensive and safer recreation. The proposed project will also improve health safety and aesthetic conditions within the project area and allow for compliance with State and Federal regulations.

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 acts as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted. The SHPO anticipates no effect to cultural or historical resources due to the proposed project.

In addition to the proposed project, the Environmental Assessment included a "No Action" alternative, and an additional alternative for replacement of on-lot facilities. "No Action" is unacceptable because untreated or partially treated sewage will continue to discharge from malfunctioning on-lot systems, "wildcat" sewer systems and combined sewer overflow events. The alternative to replace on-lot facilities was unacceptable due to higher costs as well as the soils in the area which are not conducive to on-lot treatment.

I have reasonably determined that the design and construction of the WFMSA wastewater treatment facility 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>).

AUGUST 19 2011

Date



William H. Graham
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer