

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Roundtop Road and Cresswell Road Waterline Extension
Brush Valley Township, Indiana County, PA
Section 313 Environmental Infrastructure Project
June 2012

The United States, acting by and through the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, is proposing to participate in the design and construction of a waterline extension project with the Highridge Water Authority (HWA). This project will service an area that currently has no reliable source of water for public consumption or fire suppression. The project is being pursued under the authority of Section 313 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Public Law 102-580, as amended. The project area is located along Roundtop Road, Cresswell Road, Meyers Road, and Appledale Lane, in Brush Valley Township within Indiana County in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The proposed project consists of the design and construction of a waterline extension that will tie into the existing lines along Roundtop Road and Cresswell Road. The existing lines were installed several years ago as part of the Brush Valley Waterline project. The system will include 15,000 feet of waterline, with fire hydrants installed every 1600 feet, and will provide service to 22 residential customers. The cost of the project is \$325,000.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, Gibson-Thomas Engineering Co., Inc. prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for HWA in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the Indiana County Farmland Easement Board. The EA addresses alternatives, including the proposed action and the no action alternative, to address depleted and low quality groundwater wells in the project area currently utilized by residences that are creating a public health and safety risk. The no-action alternative would allow for the unsatisfactory continuation and progressive worsening of the current conditions that pose health and safety risks to the residents in the project area, and was therefore rejected as a viable option. The HWA also explored the possibility of developing additional water sources. Deeper private wells may reach more productive and better quality aquifers, however, the yield and quality of deeper wells is questionable. In addition, the estimated cost to the residents would be higher than installing the proposed waterline extension. The proposed action will allow residences to tie-in to a reliable and safe water supply system and provide fire suppression in the project area.

Potential impacts were addressed with regard to floodplains, vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and fisheries, wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, traffic and public safety, noise, recreation and aesthetics, and land use and socioeconomic resources. Two streams that will be crossed by the waterline, Ferrier Run and Little Brush Creek, are designated as Coldwater Fisheries. To prevent disturbance to these streams resulting from construction, HWA will adhere to their National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, and General Permit No.

5 approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Therefore, no environmental or cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project will be significantly impacted. The project design and construction will comply with all applicable environmental laws and the HWA has obtained all necessary permits and approvals.

After having carefully evaluated and balanced all beneficial and detrimental aspects of the action proposed in the Roundtop Road and Cresswell Road Waterline Extension Environmental Assessment, including all regulatory agency input, I have reasonably concluded that the proposed project would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and is in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 1508.13. Consequently, the preparation of an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act for this action is not warranted. The public interest will be best served by the implementation of the proposed action. Further, the proposed work is in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. There are no unresolved issues regarding environmental compliance and coordination and there are no unresolved environmental issues. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) precedes the Corps of Engineers' final decision on the proposed action. A copy of this signed FONSI will be maintained for public information on the District's web site, <http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/>.

Date

William H. Graham
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer