

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

National Pike Water Authority (NPWA) Water Storage Tank Project Fayette County, Pennsylvania

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was developed to evaluate potential impacts associated with a water storage tank project considered for Federal funding under the Section 313 Program. The Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Public Law 102-580, Section 313 (as amended) allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to consider reimbursement for design and/or construction of environmental infrastructure up to six years prior to the date of the project partnership agreement.

The project supports the design and construction of a 330,000 gallon water storage tank in Henry Clay Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania to serve residents of Henry Clay, Wharton and Stewart Townships and Markleysburg Borough. The construction of this additional storage tank is proposed at an existing storage tank location site with approximately 0.16 acre of earth disturbance. An assessment of the existing system and future demands showed the need for an additional water storage tank to diminish the existing reliance of local residents and businesses on bottled water and to enhance fire protection in the service areas. No stream or wetland impacts are proposed.

Per USACE guidance, the agency analyzed two alternatives including a No Action alternative (no Federal funding) and the Proposed Action (Federal funding). No other feasible alternatives were identified for evaluation in the EA. Based upon discussions between McMillen Engineering and Chairman Richard Dennis of the NPWA, the NPWA will design and construct the water storage tank, even if no Federal funding is provided. Therefore, the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives would result in the work being completed.

The EA determined that the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts to the natural or human environment, and does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All environmental, social, and economic factors that are relevant to the proposal were considered in this assessment. These include, but are not limited to, water quality, noise, wetlands, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources. Anticipated impacts include temporary, minor impacts to air quality, noise, aesthetics, soils and terrestrial resources resulting from construction activities. Best management practices would be used to minimize effects, including temporary erosion control measures. Temporary minor impacts to child health and safety may occur during construction activities due to the proximity of

residences, a church, an elementary school, and businesses (noise, air quality and aesthetics). Best management practices will limit the impacts and safety risks for children in the vicinity of the project. Temporary minor beneficial impacts include socioeconomic conditions. Long-term benefits to the local water supply system are expected from this project.

No effects to land use, geology, prime and unique farmlands, groundwater, surface water, wetlands, floodplains, threatened and endangered species, designated natural areas, climate, cultural resources, recreation, transportation, hazardous, toxic and radioactive substances and environmental justice populations are expected. Overall, effects are expected to be non-significant.

A 30-day public comment period occurred from 3 October 2018 to 1 November 2018. One comment letter from the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) was received and stated that the PGC has no comments on the NPWA storage tank construction project.

After having carefully evaluated all aspects of the Proposed Action and based on the EA, I have reasonably concluded that the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required and will not be prepared.



Andrew J. Short
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer



Date