



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

January 28, 2019
Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact
Ottawa WWTP Headworks Screening Facility Improvement Project
Putnam County
CS390727-0012

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment project in your area which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WPCLF program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the document.

Loan award will proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Rouch". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Office of Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Ottawa WWTP Headworks Screening Facility Improvement Project

Applicant: The Hon. J. Dean Meyer, Mayor
Village of Ottawa
136 North Oak Street
Ottawa, OH 45875

Loan Number: CS390727-0012

Project Summary

The Village of Ottawa, in Putnam County, has requested financial assistance from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to add screening to the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) headworks to comply with Ohio EPA sludge regulations for land application. All work will be on the existing WWTP site (Figure 1), an area lacking important environmental resources.

History & Existing Conditions

The Ottawa WWTP, constructed in 1953, is now a regional facility serving Ottawa, Glandorf, and parts of Ottawa Township. Treated effluent discharges to the Blanchard River, a tributary of the Maumee River. Originally a conventional activated sludge plant, the facility was expanded and the treatment process converted to contact stabilization in 1968. A major upgrade in 1999 expanded its design flow capacity to 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD); the design will accept expansion to 4.5 MGD. An oxidation ditch was added for greater flexibility and ease of operation and ammonia removal. Other additions to the plant included two 75-foot-diameter final settling tanks and two ultraviolet disinfection channels. Sanitary sewage enters the WWTP through a metered 20-inch force main from an off-site pump station, a 24-inch gravity sewer, a 20-inch gravity sewer, and a 6-inch force main from the Village of Glandorf.

Lacking influent screening, rags and debris entering the WWTP facility damage and clog equipment. Ohio EPA regulations for the land application of sludge require fine screening of either the plant influent or waste sludge.

Unpleasant odors are generated from the aerated grit process, from filling the grit hoppers, and from influent sewage with long detention time in the force main from outlying areas.

Hydrogen sulfide has corroded electrical controls around the aerated grit system, creating both operational and safety concerns.

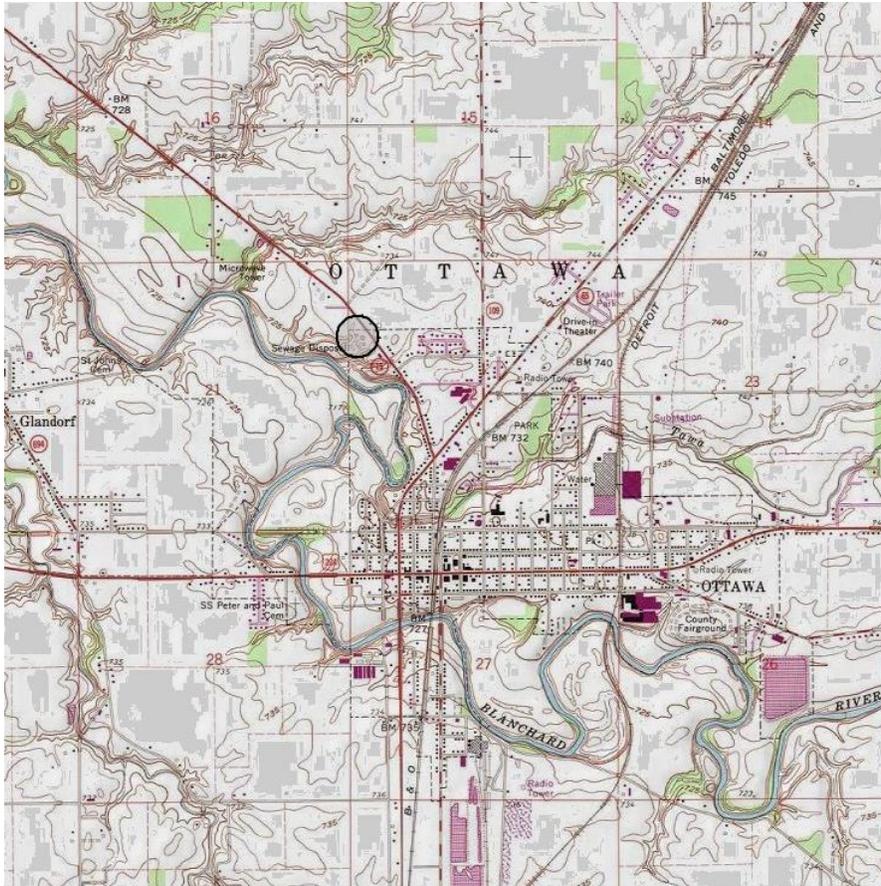


Figure 1 – Project Location

To fulfill Ohio EPA requirements for land-applying sludge, either the influent sewage or the sludge must be screened to below a 5/8-inch opening size. Screening eliminates objectionable materials (trash, plastics) from land-applied sludge and reduces WWTP maintenance needs.

Population and Flow Projections

The Ottawa WWTP is designed for expansion to 4.5 MGD if significant population growth or economic development occurs.

Feasible Alternatives

Faced with the Ohio EPA requirement for screening and with the ongoing maintenance and operational difficulties caused by a lack of influent screens, Ottawa considered no-action (the “do nothing” alternative) not feasible. Adding screening to the headworks would meet the Ohio EPA requirement and protect the downstream treatment systems and decrease operator time for removing rags and other debris. Adding screening to the sludge management system would meet the Ohio EPA requirement and continue the high maintenance and operational difficulties from rags and debris entering the treatment processes.

Selected Alternative

Ottawa proposes adding screening to the headworks. Proposed improvements to the WWTP include:

- Constructing a new headworks building to the south of the existing grit building and grit tank to house the new screens and screenings washing and compaction equipment (Figure 2). The upper level of the headworks building will house the screens and the lower level will house the grit screen dumpster.
- Rerouting the existing 20-inch force main to the new screen channel. A flow meter will be installed in the new building to measure the total influent volume. Valves will be added to allow bypassing the screen and grit facilities.
- Installation of two mechanical fine screens, one manual bar screen, and screenings washing and compaction equipment. The compactor will include a bagger to minimize odors and casters for mobility. Washed and compacted screenings will discharge to the grit screen dumpster.
- Installation of a new odor control unit for the screenings building and grit tank. A new cover on the grit tank will capture odors generated from aerated screened raw sewage. The odor control system will reduce hydrogen sulfide and ammonia odors at the treatment plant.



Figure 2 – Screening Building Location

Implementation

Ottawa will borrow approximately \$2,836,000 from the WPCLF at the 1.0% “Hardship” interest rate. During the 30-year loan period, Ottawa will save approximately \$880,000 by using WPCLF dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 3.59%.

Assuming loan award in February 2019, construction will be complete by May 2020.

Public Participation

This project has been developed over several years and has been regularly presented in Village Council meetings. Ottawa posted a project description on the village web page.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (<http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> WPCLF Documents for Review and Comment) and will provide it on request to interested parties. Information supporting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) is available from the project contact named below.

Conclusion

The proposed addition of influent screening with ancillary facilities to the Ottawa WWTP is minor upgrading of existing treatment works that qualifies for a LER and meets the following additional LER criteria:

It has no significant environmental effect, has no effect on high value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation – All work will be on and adjacent to existing structures on the WWTP site that has been previously disturbed for various stages of construction and improvements, an area lacking important environmental resources. Standard construction best management practices will protect against excess noise, dust, traffic disruption, and storm water runoff.

It is cost effective and not controversial – Ottawa was required to comply with the Ohio EPA requirement for screening and selected a system that would meet the requirement, better protect the treatment mechanical equipment from wear, and decrease the overall maintenance effort. The typical annual residential sewer bill in Ottawa will be \$638 upon project completion, which is 1.4% of local median household income (MHI; \$44,487). The Ottawa annual bill compares favorably with the Ohio average sewer bill, \$677. Sewer bills less than 1.8% of MHI are generally considered affordable. Ottawa raised rates in 2017 for this project and annually reviews the rate structure.

Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about the project.

It does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters; and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population – This project only

improves treatment by screening out large particles and debris that otherwise compromise the treatment processes and equipment. The project will have no effect on wastewater volumes or WWTP operation or layout.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant adverse impacts. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources (surface waters, coastal zones, floodplains, wetlands, state-designated scenic or recreational rivers, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, threatened or endangered species, or state and federal wildlife areas).

For more information, please contact:

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