



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

February 11, 2013

Issuance of Limited Environmental Reviews
To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and
Government Agencies

City of Cincinnati
Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Lebanon Feeder Phase 5 Water Main Replacement and Upgrade Project
WSRLA No. FS390225-0021 – US Route 42 between Bethany Road and
Mason Morrow – Millgrove Road.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that Ohio EPA has reviewed the referenced projects and finds neither a Supplemental Study (SS) nor an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required to implement the projects as discussed in the attached Limited Environmental Review (LER).

The proposed project will replace the existing water main along U.S. Route 42 with a new larger main to supply water to the City of Lebanon. The LER was completed for the project as it will not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local, or private actions have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Consequently, a Finding of No Significant Impact is being issued for the project.

The Water Supply Revolving Loan Account program requires the inclusion of environmental factors in the decision-making process for project approval. Ohio EPA has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed actions in its review and approval process. Environmental information was developed as part of the project general plan, and through the plan review process. Subsequent to the review, this Agency has found that the proposed actions do not require the preparation of either an EA or an SS.

Our environmental review concluded that because the proposed projects are limited in scope and meet all applicable criteria, a Limited Environmental Review is warranted. Specifically, the projects:

- have no significant adverse environmental effect,
- have no effect on high value environmental resources,
- do not require extensive specific impact mitigation,

- are clearly cost-effective,
- are not controversial actions, and
- will not provide capacity to serve populations substantially greater than the existing populations.

The LER presents additional information on the proposed projects, their costs and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing the contact person listed on the back of the LER.

Upon issuance of this determination, loan awards may proceed without being subject to further environmental review or public comment, unless information is provided which determines that environmental conditions on a proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,



Alauddin Alauddin, Acting Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Project Identification

Name: City of Cincinnati
Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)
Lebanon Feeder Phase 5 Water Main Project

WSRLA No. FS390225-0021 – US Route 42 between Bethany Road and Mason Morrow – Millgrove Road.

Address: Carel Vandermeijden, GCWW Chief Engineer
4747 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

B. Background of Projects and Existing Need

The City of Cincinnati's GCWW has applied to Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) for low-interest financing involving the upgrade and replacement of the Lebanon Feeder Phase 5 Water Main Project within the GCWW service area. This document summarizes Ohio EPA's environmental review of the proposed water main upgrade replacement project.

GCWW provides about 136 million gallons (MG) of potable water per day through approximately 3,100 miles of water mains to most of Hamilton County and parts of Butler and Warren counties in Ohio, and to Boone County in Kentucky. GCWW supplies water from two sources. The Miller Treatment Plant treats surface water from the Ohio River, and the Bolton Treatment Plant treats ground water from wells in the Great Miami Aquifer in southern Butler County. Water from the Miller and Bolton treatment plants is delivered to customers in an open distribution system, mixing water from both sources in the water mains.

The Lebanon Feeder Phase 5 Water Main Project is a continuation of the Water Supply to Lebanon - Phases 2, 4, and 5 Extension Projects that connected an estimated 6,600 Lebanon customers and 1,350 South Lebanon customers to the GCWW in 2011. This project is needed to improve water service by providing water line redundancy and more reliable service to the City of Lebanon and Village of South Lebanon.

C. Project Descriptions

The proposed project involves installation of 3,200 lf of 12-inch diameter ductile iron water main adjacent to an existing 8-inch diameter water main on the south side of U.S. Route 42 between Bethany Road and Mason Morrow-Millgrove

Road. Construction of the new water main should be straight-forward. A trench will be dug in the road right-of-way, very near the existing waterline. Installation of the new 12-inch main will require a 2.5-foot wide trench with an average depth of approximately 4.5 feet. The new waterline will be installed, tested, and connected to the upstream and downstream portions of the existing waterline that will remain in operation during installation of the new main. Since the new waterline will be installed adjacent to the existing water line in the road-right-of-way, no significant adverse impact is expected. (See Figure 1 and 2).

D. Estimated Project Costs

The estimated \$140,000 project costs are expected to be funded with a low-interest loan through the WSRLA program administered by Ohio EPA. GCWW meets the program criteria for a non-disadvantaged system with affordability points, qualifying it for a 1.75% interest rate for up to 20 years. By using WSRLA funding instead of the 3.59% market rate funding, GWCC will save on interest costs. The estimated total project cost and interest saving are listed in the following table.

Project Name	Estimated Total Cost	Interest Savings with WSRLA Funding
Lebanon Feeder Phase 5 Water Main Project	\$112,220	\$24,780

GCWW provides wholesale water to both Lebanon and South Lebanon through a master water meter. The bulk water rates GCWW charges Lebanon and South Lebanon are tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and will increase or decrease based on the CPI.

Lebanon's median household income (MHI) based on the 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey is \$61,414, and for South Lebanon is \$43,889. The estimated average monthly residential water service charges for Lebanon and South Lebanon are respectively \$34 (\$408 per year) and \$36 (\$432 per year) based on 7,756 gallons of water usage.

Lebanon's average annual user charge of \$408 is 0.7% of the median household income. This is below the Ohio average of 1.2% (the 2010 state average annual water use charge as a percentage of the 2010 Ohio MHI). South Lebanon's average annual user charge of \$432 is 1.0% of the median household income. This also is below the Ohio average of 1.2% of the Ohio MHI for water use.

Lebanon's projected average annual user cost of \$408 per year is above the range of other cities in the region, namely: Fairfield (population 42,510) - \$199, Dayton (population 141,527) - \$353, and Middletown (population 48,694) - \$335. Lebanon's 2010 Census population is 20,033. South Lebanon's projected

average annual user cost of \$432 is also above the range of these other communities. South Lebanon's 2010 Census population is 4,115.

E. Project Schedule

It is expected that the WSRLA loan for the proposed water main project will be awarded at the OWDA Board meeting on February 28, 2013. The construction schedule for the project is listed below.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>Completion</u>
Phase 5 Feeder Main Project	March 2013	June 2013

F. Public Notification

GCWW is proactive in terms of its public awareness for waterline replacement projects. GCWW maintains a very informative website including council meeting videos, which is updated regularly to notify the public of projects and other current news. The Annual Consumer Confidence Report notifies the public of the progress that GCWW is making in replacing and upgrading its water infrastructure.

In addition, GCWW will publish notice of the availability of, and provide this Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) decision to interested parties for public comment. GCWW will place the LER and FNSI on its website (<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/>). Ohio EPA will also post these documents on its website (<http://epa.ohio.gov/default/Default.aspx>) under the "WPCLF" tab in the "Documents Available for Review" list. Additional information supporting the FNSI and LER is available upon request from the Ohio EPA address at the end of this document.

G. Planning Information

Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance has reviewed and approved the facilities planning for the project. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office reviewed the proposed project and concurred with Ohio EPA's determination of "no historic properties affected" because no historically significant resources are present in the Area of Potential Effect (the trench excavation will be in previously disturbed rights-of-way). Since the water main will be entirely in road rights-of-way in developed areas, no review by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was necessary. Ohio EPA is not aware of any opposition to the project.

H. Conclusion

The proposed water main project meets Ohio EPA's general criteria for a Limited Environmental Review, being actions in portions of an already existing water system that are designed to replace or upgrade the existing waterlines. Furthermore, the project meets the following specific qualifying criteria for a LER:

** The proposed project will have no significant environmental effect, nor will it affect any special resource type, since the project is confined to the existing road right-of-way adjacent to the existing 8-inch diameter water main, where no special, high quality or extensive environmental resources exist.*

** The proposed project will not require extensive general or specific impact mitigation, since the entire project is limited in scope and located in previously-disturbed areas.*

** The proposed project is clearly the cost-effective alternative for providing improved drinking water service by providing system redundancy and a more reliable water supply to the City of Lebanon and Village of South Lebanon using GCWW water.*

** The proposed project is noncontroversial because it will not adversely impact the environment, or the users of the system, and the anticipated \$140,000 WSRLA loan requires no rate increase for the average user. There is no known opposition to the project.*

** The proposed project will not provide capacity to serve populations substantially greater than the existing populations; do not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters; and 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*
- The proposed project consists of providing system redundancy and more reliable water supply to developed areas, so the immediate service area demand will remain about the same. No discharge of pollutants is involved. Therefore, the projects will not result in any increase in service, discharge or loading of pollutants to receiving waters.

** The proposed project will not result in any increase in the volume of water treated on a daily basis; or provide additional drinking water distribution lines to the project area, since it merely involves providing more reliable service and improvement of water quality and to the City of Lebanon and Village of South Lebanon.*

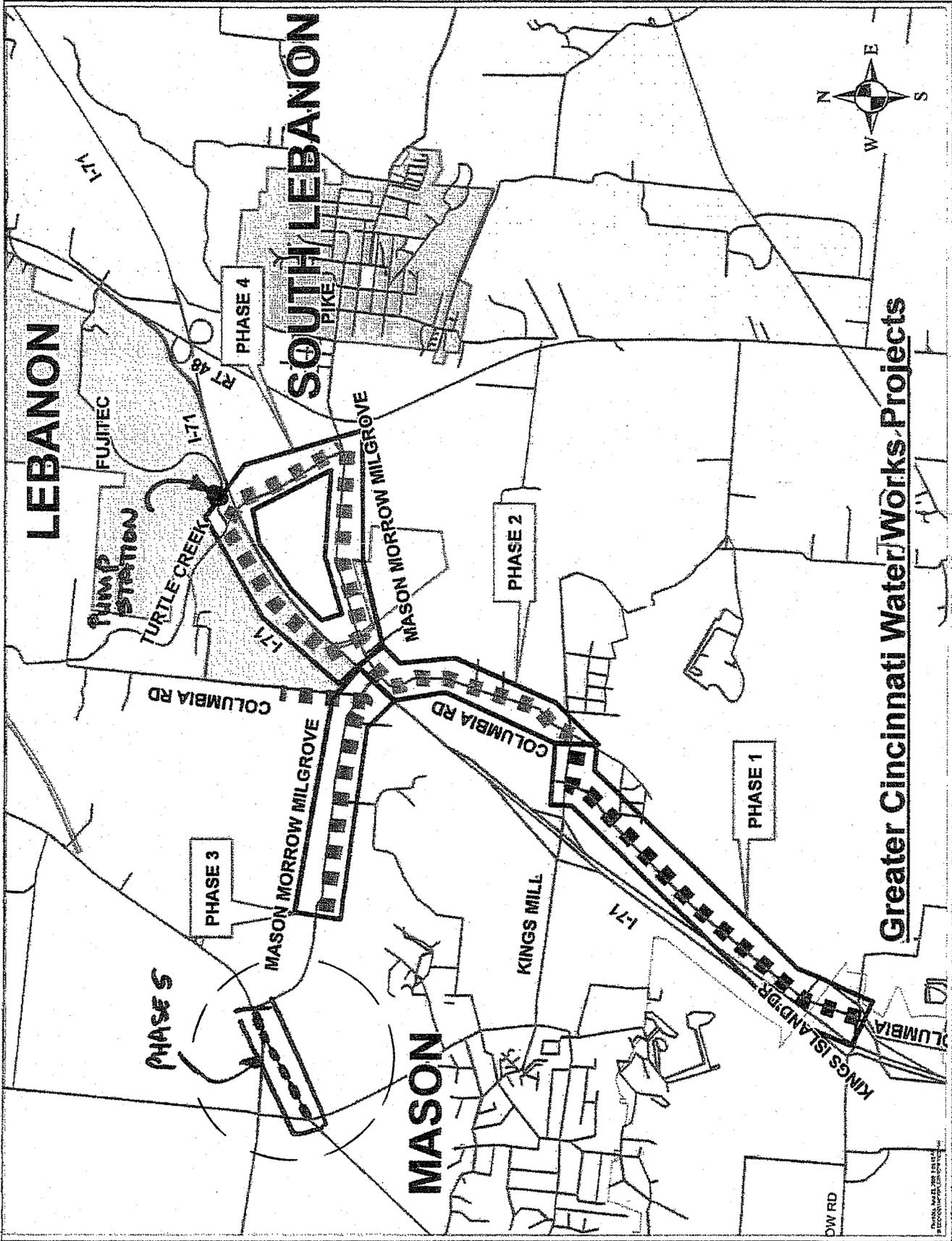
The construction mitigation measures agreed to by GCWW will further ensure that adverse impacts do not occur during construction of the project. These

include erosion and sedimentation controls; the use of noise control devices on construction equipment; and maintenance of access for emergency vehicles and regular traffic.

The planning activities for the proposed project have identified no potentially-significant adverse impacts. Specifically, the action is expected to have no significant short or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources such as: floodplains; wetlands; riparian areas; prime or unique agricultural lands; aquifer recharge zones; archaeologically or historically significant sites; or threatened or endangered species. The proposed project will improve the existing drinking water system and provide more reliable water service to the City of Lebanon and Village of South Lebanon with GCWW water.

I. For further information, please contact:

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Greater Cincinnati Water Works Projects